



# BRAC University

## 5<sup>th</sup> Convocation

7<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

Chancellor's Message

**Chancellor's Message**

25 Magh 1416  
07 February 2010

**Message**

I am pleased to learn that BRAC University is going to observe its 5<sup>th</sup> convocation on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010. On this happy occasion, I extend my sincere felicitations to the graduates, their parents and the university authority as well.

Quality education is the essence of the time that to be ensured collectively. Universities, I believe, as the centre of excellence would provide world-standard education to the students. Convocation, a solemn occasion of the university, recognises the academic achievements of the students that they have earned through long perseverance. It provides ample opportunities to the graduates to enter professional life and also gives some responsibilities to them for making welfare of the nation. I believe the graduates of the university would put their best endeavour for the well-being of the common people imbued with the sense of patriotism.

I wish the 5<sup>th</sup> Convocation of BRAC University a success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

*MD. ZILUR RAHMAN*  
Md. Zilur Rahman

Prime Minister's Message

**Prime Minister's Message**

25 Magh 1416  
07 February 2010

**Message**

I am pleased to learn that the 5<sup>th</sup> Convocation of BRAC University is going to be held on 7 February 2010.

On this occasion, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to graduating students and congratulate them on their achievement. Credit also goes to their parents, guardians, the faculty and all members of BRAC University, who have played vital roles in bringing the students to this hallowed juncture.

I hope that the graduates will nurture a dream to embrace the duty of transforming the socio-economic landscape of Bangladesh.

I wish the Convocation all out success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever

*Sheikh Hasina*  
Sheikh Hasina

Education Minister's Message

**Education Minister's Message**

25 Magh 1416  
07 February 2010

**Message**

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the graduates of BRAC University on the successful completion of their degrees. Each one of them has achieved an important milestone and will join the ranks of the increasingly distinguished alumni of this university.

I firmly believe that education is the most meaningful investment that society can make to better navigate the terrain of an increasingly complex world, and confront emerging challenges with greater confidence.

Needs to say, the skills and training that a good education provides equip an individual to better navigate the terrain of an increasingly complex world, and confront emerging challenges with greater confidence.

I urge the graduates to proceed on their journey with the idea that their education must have an outcome above and beyond what dividends it brings in their personal lives. At every step of the way, remember that you are the future leaders of Bangladesh and the future of our nation rests collectively on your shoulders.

I wish the graduates every success in their future endeavours.

*Nurul Islam Nahid M.P.*  
Nurul Islam Nahid M.P.

University Grants Commission Chairman's Message

**University Grants Commission Chairman's Message**

25 Magh 1416  
07 February 2010

**Message**

I am pleased that BRAC University is celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> Convocation. I congratulate the graduates on this auspicious occasion.

It is a source of pride for the nation, I believe, that the vision with which private universities have progressed since the Private University Act came into force more than a decade ago, is indeed commendable. This has added a new dimension to tertiary education in our country.

BRAC University has moulded itself as a centre for excellence in teaching and research, where young professionals of Bangladesh have found a platform for innovative thinking and action. I laud the university for its efforts to make its curricula relevant to the world we live in. BRAC University has also made efforts in providing scholarships to meritorious and underprivileged students - a practice that could play a tremendous role in allowing some of the finest undiscovered minds of this country the opportunity to flourish.

It remains for me to wish you young graduates every success in your lives ahead and I hope that you will carry the spark of idealism imbued in you by this institution in all your future work.

*Professor Nazrul Islam*  
Professor Nazrul Islam

Governing Board President's Message

**Governing Board President's Message**

25 Magh 1416  
07 February 2010

**Message**

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to graduates of the Fifth Convocation of BRAC University. It is a moment of great pride for all of us, as this day represents a milestone in our onward journey to the realisation of our educational goals. It is not only our graduates, who deserve our congratulations today, but also their parents and the faculty and staff of the university, who collectively contribute to the vibrancy and excellence of this university.

However, before you begin the next phase of your lives, I urge you to consider what place you wish to take in history. While I hope that you will go on to fulfill your own ambitions and excel in your chosen fields, you must all keep in mind that there is always an obligation beyond self. You will ultimately be remembered not for what you have achieved for yourselves, but for what you have contributed to society. From you, we expect great things and I am confident that you will make us proud.

I hope that your time here has transformed your minds and your lives and I trust that you will face any challenge with confidence and dignity. My heartfelt congratulations to you all and best wishes for your future!

*Fazle Hasan Abed*  
Fazle Hasan Abed

### fostering development

Steeped in the values inherited from its parent institution, BRAC University aims to educate young people who will be creative and independent thinkers with a deep engagement with the culture and traditions of Bangladesh, a keen awareness of its problems, and the inspiration to work for its development. In their very first year, students are sensitized to these issues through two specially designed courses taken during the residential semester in Savar.

Even outside the classroom, BRAC University tries to inculcate concern for others, and encourages development-related activities and outreach. The 'Shohayota Fund' was established using faculty and staff contributions, with matching funds from BRAC, to assist students who might be facing an unexpected crisis. Student clubs and forums often get involved in community service. After cyclones Sidr and Aila, student clubs and forums worked together to raise funds and relief materials. Their initiative and enthusiasm in responding to the needs of the larger community illustrates the kind of active citizenship and willingness to give back to one's community that we try to encourage and inculcate.

### a centre of excellence

To be a centre for excellence in higher education, a university must offer academic programs that are contemporary and relevant, a top-notch faculty that can deliver high quality education, and modern facilities in line with the latest technology. The academic programs at BRAC University are highly relevant to today's world. Our graduate programs have been developed in partnership with leading institutions in those fields.

Along with cutting-edge academic programs, the university strives to recruit faculty who will be able to keep pace with the latest trends in their fields. Faculty development programs are in place to help the junior faculty achieve their full potential. Last but not the least, a high quality educational experience needs the support of up-to-date technology and campus facilities. BRAC University is housed in its own buildings, and our classrooms are equipped with networked computers and multimedia facilities. We have a growing library of more than 18,000 books, and access to thousands of e-journals from any computer on campus. We have fourteen computer labs, a CISCO lab, a media lab, nine architecture studios, video-conferencing facilities, and laboratories for physics, applied physics and electronics, electronics and communication engineering, and biotechnology.

creative leadership

The challenges of the twenty-first century are complex and formidable, not only in Bangladesh, but in the ever-expanding global village of which we are a part. To meet those challenges, the leaders of tomorrow must be creative and dynamic, able to deal with fast changing realities. BRAC University provides a 'broad-based education' where students are required to take at least a quarter of their courses outside their major field of study, so that they acquire both depth in their chosen field, as well as breadth in terms of general knowledge.

Communication skills, both oral and written, are emphasized by the English language courses conducted by the Centre for Languages, which now offers courses in other languages. By emphasizing group work, projects, and co-curricular activities, CFL strives to create an enjoyable and student-centric learning environment that motivates the students and improves their communicative fluency and leadership skills. The residential semester gives students a unique opportunity to grow individually and as a community. Removed from the familiar bearings of home and family, students learn how to function independently, as well as communicate and cooperate with others.

### creation of knowledge

The task of a university is not only to disseminate knowledge, but to create new knowledge through research and scholarship. Our Institute of Educational Development offers a graduate program in Early Childhood Development, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, and will soon be launching an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management, another first in Bangladesh. Similar ground-breaking work is being done by the James P. Grant School of Public Health which has pioneered a new model of public health education based on experiential learning in a rural setting which becomes a field laboratory for teaching and research. The BRAC Development Institute is taking part in a global research consortium called 'Pathways of Women's Empowerment,' and the Institute of Governance Studies, which publishes the annual State of Governance in Bangladesh report, offers a unique Master's program that trains mid-career civil servants to effectively face the complex challenges of governance in the context of Bangladesh. The university is an affiliate of the World Bank sponsored Global Development Learning Network which enables individuals and organizations around the world to communicate and share knowledge on development issues through video-conferencing.

Convocation Speaker's Message

**Convocation Speaker's Message**

25 Magh 1416  
07 February 2010

**Message**

It is a high honor for me to join you in this great celebratory event.

Graduation - like birth, marriage, parenthood - is a landmark event of life. It represents the culmination of much investment of talent, time, money, and most important of all very hard work! It also marks a milestone in your life growth and learning process. From classrooms and structured studies, you will move into applying, using, and adapting knowledge in pursuit of your life's endeavors.

As you embark on your lives and careers, these formative years will play an increasingly important, not diminishing, role. For what you do in life will not be based on what you have memorized in the classroom. Rather, the totality of your educational experience has shaped how you think, understand, communicate, and assess life's unfolding adventures. I join in extending my heartfelt congratulations to all of you, especially the graduates and their families, for their achievements. And may I offer my sincerest best wishes for the exciting promise of your futures.

Sincerely yours

*Lincoln C. Chen*  
Lincoln C. Chen, MD

### Institutional Linkages

- BRAC Business School**
  - Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
  - Asian Institute of Management (Philippines)
  - University of South Australia (Australia)
  - Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania (USA)
- BRAC Development Institute**
  - Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester (UK)
  - Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex (UK)
  - MacArthur Foundation (USA)
  - The Earth Institute, Columbia University (USA)
  - Alliance Forum Foundation (AFF)
  - Save the Children (UK)
  - WaterAid
  - American University of Cairo (Egypt)
  - University of Ghana
  - Bahia University (Brazil)
- Department of Architecture**
  - Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Thailand
  - Kyoto University, Japan
  - Northumbria University, UK
  - Kathmandu University, Nepal
- Faculty Development and Capacity Building**
  - George Washington University (USA)
- Institute of Educational Development**
  - Columbia University (USA)
  - George Washington University (USA)
  - University of Sussex (UK)
- Open Society Institute (UK)**
- Aga Khan Foundation (Canada)**
- National University of Educational Planning and Administration (India)**
- Institute of Governance Studies**
  - Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (USA)
  - George Mason University (USA)
  - University of Manitoba (Canada)
  - Key Centre, Griffith University (Australia)
  - Monash University (Australia)
  - Basel Institute of Governance, Basel University (Switzerland)
  - School of Public Policy and Management (Korea)
- James P. Grant School of Public Health**
  - Harvard School of Public Health (USA)
  - Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University (USA)
  - Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University (USA)
  - George Washington University (USA)
  - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK)
  - Karolinska Institute (Sweden)
  - University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
  - University of Nagasaki (Japan)
  - Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science & Technology (India)
  - Centre for Health and Population Research, ICDDR,B (Bangladesh)
  - University of Maryland (USA)
  - University of Illinois at Springfield (USA)

### BRACU in brief

Undergraduate programs in Economics, Law, English, Architecture, Business Administration, Physics, Applied Physics & Electronics, Computer Science, Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering.

Graduate programs in Development Studies, Public Health, Governance & Development, Business Administration, Disaster Management, Biotechnology, English, Applied Economics, Early Childhood Development.

### Student Activities

Students at BRAC University participate in a thriving extracurricular arena with 32 active clubs and forums which operate under the auspices of the Student Affairs Office. Each semester kicks off with a Club Fair where all the clubs and forums set up booths to showcase their activities and attract new members. The clubs and forums organize seminars, workshops, study tours, debates, film shows, cultural programs, community service, sporting events, etc. They also represent the university at various inter-university and national level competitions. Among a clutch of honours that BRACU students earned in 2009 were two prestigious awards at the 4<sup>th</sup> South Asian Universities Youth Festival (SAUFEST), while the school of law came out champions at the 5<sup>th</sup> National Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition held at Dhaka University.

### BRACU in the world

At BRAC University, learning extends beyond the classroom. Whether it is exploring indigenous architecture in Bandarban, participating in a case competition in Seattle, discovering Tagore's humanistic vision at Shantiniketan, or presenting papers at international conferences, our students have been actively and inquisitively exploring the world beyond the university and leaving their mark on it. Study tours and field trips frequently complement classroom learning, and our students hone their skills by participating in programming contests, case competitions, design competitions, debates, etc. They have travelled as far as Canada and the Netherlands to present their research, and have been selected to attend the US State Department sponsored South Asian Undergraduate Student Leaders Institute.

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Chancellor's Gold Medal

- Mission**
- 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 contributes to learning and creation of knowledge.
- Distinctions**
- Chancellor's Gold Medal**  
Nubaha Mahub (ECO)  
Matthew James Reeve (MPH)
- Vice Chancellor's Medal**  
*Undergraduate Programs*  
Kazi Meftahul Arefin (ARC)  
Nabila Naushin (CSE)  
Supriyo Shafkat Ahmed (ECE)  
Sadia Hossain (BBA)  
Nubaha Mahub (ECO)  
Naufela Nafisa Ahmed (ENG)  
M. Sanjeeb Hossain (LLB)
- Post-Graduate Programs*  
Caroline Anne Schneider (ENG)  
Mohsina Yasmin (MDS)  
Kamelia Khan (MBA)  
Md. Saiful Hossain (MDM)  
Matthew James Reeve (MPH)  
Abu Saleh Mohammad Obaidullah (MAGD)

Vice Chancellor's Message

**Vice Chancellor's Message**

25 Magh 1416  
07 February 2010

**Message**

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the fifth graduating class of BRAC University on this auspicious day.

With every year that goes by BRAC University is moving ahead with tremendous strides and our students and graduates are the finest proof of this progress. Our attainment today is the fruit of hard work, sincerity and devotion, and that is what we are celebrating today. Parents and guardians also deserve special recognition for all they have done to ensure that the graduating students reach this academic milestone successfully. Congratulations are due to them as well! And, needless to say, the faculty and staff that form the backbone of this institution deserve praise for always striving to help students achieve their full potential.

I hope all of you will succeed in following your dreams, and someday become leaders in your fields. Continue to learn from others, widen your knowledge and gain deeper wisdom: this is my advice to you for your future advancement!

Once again, I congratulate you on your achievement and wish you the best as you set out into the world.

*Professor Jamilur R. Choudhury*  
Professor Jamilur R. Choudhury

Convocation Speaker's Message

**Convocation Speaker's Message**

25 Magh 1416  
07 February 2010

**Message**

It is a great pleasure and privilege to congratulate BRAC University and its fifth graduating class.

The challenge facing higher education today is how to equip the next generation of leaders with the skills they need to find answers to complex development problems and the values they need to promote social justice.

Now nine years old, BRAC University has equipped five batches of graduates with many of the necessary skills and values. As the graduates pursue their careers in private enterprises, public service, or nongovernmental organizations, they will need to draw and build on these skills and values. I commend BRAC University - its founders, leaders, and faculty - for a job well done. And I congratulate the 2010 graduates of the University on their hard work and achievements.

I wish you all the best for your future work and for your commitment to human development and social justice.

*Marty Chen*  
Marty Chen

### Profile of Graduates

Equipped with the knowledge and skills gained at BRAC University, our first four batches of graduates are working in media, advertising, non-government organizations, telecommunications, educational institutions, multinational companies, banks and financial institutions, software companies, etc. We are justifiably proud of them and we expect that our fifth batch of graduates will follow and build on their success.

At our fifth convocation, a total of 561 students are graduating: 385 students from undergraduate programs, and 176 students from graduate programs, in the following disciplines:

Bachelor's degrees in Architecture, Business Administration, Computer Science, Computer Science & Engineering, Economics, Electronics & Communication Engineering, English, Law, and Physics.

Master's degrees in Applied Economics, Biotechnology, Business Administration, Development Studies, Disaster Management, English, Governance and Development, and Public Health.