

# Abdul Kalam's take on sustainable development

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Former Indian president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam yesterday called for creative leadership for sustainable development as the two are closely linked.

"Sustainable development only can come through creative leadership," said Kalam, adding that creative leaders can be of any age -- 25 years or 70 years.

The 83-year old provided a list to show how sustainable development is related to creativity. He said:

- 1 A nation's economic development is powered by competitiveness
- 2 Competitiveness is powered by knowledge
- 3 Knowledge is powered by technology and innovation
- 4 Technology and innovation are powered by resource investment
- 5 Resource investment is powered by return on investment
- 6 Return on investment is powered by revenue
- 7 Revenue is powered by volume and repeat sales
- 8 Volume and repeat sales are powered by customer loyalty
- 9 Customer loyalty is powered by the quality and value of products
- 10 Quality and value of products is powered by employee productivity and innovation
- 11 Employee productivity is powered by employee loyalty
- 12 Employee loyalty is powered by employee satisfaction
- 13 Employee satisfaction is powered by the working environment
- 14 Working environment is powered by management innovation
- 15 Management innovation is powered by creative leadership



RASHED SHUMON

# US inequality near highest levels in 100 years: Fed chief

AFP, Washington

Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen warned Friday that the gap between the rich and poor in the United States is widening and is near the highest levels seen in 100 years.

In a speech at a conference on inequality in Boston, Yellen did not mention monetary policy nor the current turmoil in financial markets.

Instead, she focused on the widening wealth disparity and how that impacts economic opportunity.

"By some estimates, income and wealth inequality are near their highest levels in the past hundred years," Yellen said, noting the gap has grown steadily over recent decades, despite a brief pause during the 2008 crisis.

During the recession, the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the richest Americans lost money, and increased government spending helped offset losses for the less wealthy.

"But widening inequality resumed in the recovery, as the stock market rebounded," Yellen said, noting that "wage growth and the healing of the labor market have been slow, and the increase in home prices has not fully restored the housing wealth lost by the large majority of households for which it is their primary asset."

The Fed chief said that wide wealth disparities can make it harder for the poor to move up the income ladder, and also warned of the burden of student loan debt, which quadrupled between 2004 and 2014.

"I think it is appropriate to ask whether this trend is compatible with values rooted in our nation's history, among them the high value Americans have traditionally placed on equality of opportunity," she said.

The 68-year-old Yellen, who has headed the Federal Reserve since early this year, is known as a "dove," referring to her policies that prioritize fighting unemployment in contrast to "hawks" who prioritize keeping inflation low.

In one of her first major speeches as chair, Yellen spoke on what the Fed was doing "to promote a stronger job market," where she said that, "although we work through financial markets, our goal is to help Main Street, not Wall Street."

On Friday, Yellen said "some degree of inequality" is natural and indeed "arguably contributes to economic growth, because it creates incentives to work hard, get an education, save, invest, and undertake risk."

However, that same inequality can limit access to economic resources for those lower on the ladder, "thereby perpetuating a trend of increasing inequality."

Yellen offered no remedies for decreasing the rich-poor gap, but said she welcomed discussion on ways to better promote "equality of economic opportunity."

She said two "cornerstones of opportunity" are resources available to children and access to higher education, but added that ownership of a family business and inherited wealth can also be important sources of economic opportunity.

"For families below the top, public funding plays an important role in providing resources to children that influence future levels of income and wealth," Yellen said, citing programs like unemployment, welfare, and early childhood education.

She said college degrees also offer a net benefit, despite escalating tuition costs that have contributed to a dramatic increase in student loan debt -- the outstanding balance quadrupled from \$260 billion in 2004 to \$1.1 trillion this year.

# MCCI honours business icons

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) yesterday gave Centenary Awards to 20 businesses and individuals for their outstanding performances and contribution to society.

As the chief guest, Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed over the awards on the occasion of the chamber's 110th founding anniversary, at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka.

As the nation's oldest trade body, MCCI witnessed the British period, the Pakistan rule and the birth of Bangladesh in 1971, MCCI President Rokia Afzal Rahman said.

"We have also noticed the rise of Bangladesh. Now, Bangladesh is the second largest garment exporter and the second largest cotton consumer worldwide," she said. "We want to see a better Bangladesh in future."

CATEGORY	AWARD WINNER
Pioneering industrialisation	Late M Noorul Quader, founder of Desh Garment; Late Samson H Chowdhury, founder of Square Group.
Corporate good governance and improving business environment	Transcom and ACI
Entrepreneurship development	Pran-RFL Group and Apex Footwear
Corporate social responsibility	Unilever Bangladesh and British American Tobacco Bangladesh
Skills development	AK Khan & Co
Education	MM Ispahani
Poverty alleviation and social development	Grameen Bank and Brac
Green business	Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy and Viyellatex Group
ICT development	BASIS and Bangladesh Computer Samity
Health and hygiene	Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq and BIRDEM
Food security through research and development in agriculture	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
Promoting agriculture through electronic media	Channel i



The MCCI yesterday awarded 20 businesses and individuals. Representatives of different organisations received the awards from Finance Minister AMA Muhith at a ceremony at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. Some of the recipients are: 1. Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani, chairman of Ispahani Group; 2. Salahuddin Kasem Khan, managing director of AK Khan & Company; 3. Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group; 4. David Hasanat, chairman of Viyellatex Group; 5. Tapan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals; 6. Lee Taylor, finance director of Unilever Bangladesh; 7. Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear; 8. Prof Nazmun Nahar of BIRDEM; 9. Mohammad Shahjahan, acting managing director of Grameen Bank.