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# When we met the world

## One Young World Summit 2014

Stepping out of the airport, the first things to grab my attention were the gigantic banners all over the city saying 'Welcome OYW delegates'. Every corner of the city was filled with the white and blue of OYW, welcoming young minds from all over the world. There was no doubt that the biggest youth summit was taking place in Dublin, the capital city of Ireland.

On October 15, I had the privilege to be a part of Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus' delegation to the One Young World Summit 2014 held in Dublin. I was accompanied by nine brilliant young minds of our country. The team included Tanzila Mazumder Drishti from Volunteer for Bangladesh-Chittagong district; Shapla Koli from Grameen Caledonian Nursing College; Shwazeb M Khairul Islam, the CEO and founder of Social Business Youth Network; Nazmul Islam Apu, entrepreneur and a BUET student; Kazi Rubaya Islam, online entrepreneur; Kazi Zaowad, student of Chittagong University and a brilliant debater; Habibur Rahman, social business entrepreneur; Meghna Alam, founder of Ekotro Foundation; and Syeda Lammim Ahad, a student of EEE in BUET who is also involved with various youth organisations.

Enter the biggest auditorium of the city. Personalities like the former president of Ireland Mary Robinson, Sir Bob Geldof, Poul Polman, Hans Reitz, and many more One Young World counsellors, sat on the stage, welcoming us to the ceremony. David Johns and Kate Robertson, founders of One Young World came to the stage and gave their welcoming speech. Their enthusiasm brought a smile to everyone's faces. At that moment, we knew that the next four days would be unimaginably gratifying.

The highlight of the opening was the flag ceremony, which everyone was dying to see. When our flag bearer Habibur Rahman stepped onto the stage, people all around globe started to cheer for the red and green flag. It was the one of many proud moments in the summit for us. Afterwards it was time for the cultural programme that began with a performance by tap dancers and the famous Irish instrumental group Toss the Feathers.

The first day of the summit focused on topics such as climate change, circular



**The opening ceremony ended with a speech by rock star legend Sir Bob Geldof's, in which he said, "Our generation has failed. We are all in our 'greatest hits' era. It's your time to take the stage. Show us the way!"**

economy, sustainable development, leadership and government and global business. Each of the sessions was taken by prominent personalities. Dame Ellen MacArthur told us the story of how she sailed all around the world and got inspired to work on circular economy to help save the environment. Circular economy is using recycling materials to create products such as cell phones, washing machines and other

products that could firstly, help the environment, and secondly, bring down the prices of such products. After hearing her, everyone from our delegation had only one question on our minds -Why aren't we funding this in our country! She ended her speech saying, "We are only the 2% of the world; when you do something do it for the other 98%." The biggest part of the first day was the special session, conducted by Mary Robinson and Kofi Anan, called 'Now, Not Tomorrow.' They talked about 'The Elders',



**The last day marked 25 years of the fall of the Berlin wall, and we celebrated it with a balloon release ceremony.**

an organisation founded by Nelson Mandela, and how young leaders should step up and take the reins.

The second day covered sessions on topics such as ensuring employability, bridging the gender gap, human rights, peace and conflict, etc. Another special session conducted by Kofi Anan drew everyone's attention. He spoke about how today's generation should take charge and the summit could be the first step

towards that. Paul Polman, CEO at Unilever, also spoke about sustainable development and how as a corporate, one can still make a difference.

On the same day, my teammate Drishti and I attended the external breakout session about Mental Illness. Renowned documentary photographer Robin Hammond showed his photographs about asylums in Africa and how people are tortured there. The session was an eye-opener for all when Tony Bates, founding director of Headstrong Ireland,



**Yunus' speech was full of inspiration as he talked about how social business can solve social issues around the world. He said in his speech, "Don't let us tell you what to do! You're the leaders of today, not tomorrow."**

shared his experience working in Ghana with mental health sufferers. The day ended with dinner and entertainment at the world famous Guinness Storehouse. Needless to say, Irish people know how to party!

The best was saved for the last. The auditorium was packed as nobody was planning on bunking any of the sessions that day. The second peace and conflict session which focused on international insights got

everybody's attention as Yenomi Park, a delegate speaker from North Korea spoke about her escape from the Kim regime and how people are suffering in that country. Her passionate speech about the tortures and sufferings of North Koreans grabbed everyone's attention and later became one of the viral topics at the summit.

The proudest moment of the day was when one of our own countrymen took the stage and the crowd could not stop cheering for five whole minutes. Professor Muhammad Yunus took the stage and talked about social business with Hans Reitz. The crowd went wild when he ended the speech with the statement, "Together let's make the word 'unemployment' unemployed!"

That day marked 25 years of the fall of the Berlin wall, and we celebrated it with a balloon release ceremony. The summit came to an end that night as the delegates promised to go back their countries and make a difference in society. As David Jones said in his finale speech, "The summit is not the end, it's only the beginning."

For me, the OYW summit was one of the most valuable learning experiences. Trust me when I say this, I literally met the world in this summit. We, the Bangladesh delegation, made new friends, talked about starting projects worldwide, discussed world policies with the world, and to say the least, we can now claim to know someone from every corner of the planet. It was truly an honour and I think I can vouch for everyone in my team when I say that we all went as ten individuals but came back as one, trying to make a difference in the society.

APURBA JAHANGIR

### PRESS RELEASE

## MoU between BRAC Business School and Sapien Strategy Consulting & Research

BRAC Business School's Center for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) and Sapien Strategy Consulting & Research signed a MoU on October 27, 2014 at BRAC University Campus. As part of the MoU, CED and Sapien will launch advanced management courses for professionals and arrange various training programs to cater to the need of the Bangladesh corporate sector. Rezaur Razzak, Director CED & Current In-Charge BRAC Business School and Mohammad Saif Noman Khan, Chairman & Chief Advisor, Sapien signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. BRAC Business School's Professor Emeritus Dr. Hafiz G. A. Siddiqi (former VC, North South University, and former Director, IBA, Dhaka University), Shamim Ehsanul Haque, Senior Research Fellow, CED & Assistant Professor, BRAC Business School, and Afshana Choudhury, Program Manager, CED were also present in the signing ceremony.



## First Bangladeshi elected as President of APFHRM

Md Musharraf Hossain has been elected as the President of the Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resources Management (APFHRM) at a board meeting held in Santiago, Chile on 13 October, 2014. APFHRM is a network of human resources and people management associations in the Asia Pacific region. As a collective, the Federation's purpose is to advance the standing of the HR and people management profession within the region. APFHRM is also an active branch of the World Federation of People Management Associations (WFPMA).

Musharraf Hossain took over the position from the outgoing President of APFHRM Ernesto Espinosa, who ended his tenure of two years. He is the first Bangladeshi to be elected as the President of APFHRM. Mr. Hossain is also the President of the Bangladesh Society for Human Resources Management (BSHRM) as well as one of its founding members. He is currently working with icddr,b as the Head of Human Resources Management.

## WHAT NOT TO SAY



In our desperate attempts at making small talk and appearing oh-so down-to-earth, we often make the mistake of blurting out the inappropriate at interviews. And even if it's just an informal meeting with potential bosses or co-workers, there's a limit to what you're at liberty to say. As important as it is to convey your thoughts properly and express your enthusiasm for your shiny new job, you need to know the boundary between the personal and the professional, the interesting and the irrelevant. More often than not, we've been victims of our own word vomit and once it's out there, there's no turning the clock back.

Here's a couple of serious no-no's when it comes to pleading your case, which if you can avoid, you're probably in the clear. **Don't say: "My boss there was a complete ball-buster. He always had it in for me"**

Bosses are meant to be demanding

(amongst other things). And what's to say that your new boss won't be the same and you won't go around playing him down too? You're not doing yourself a favour by complaining about your boss. Even if your former workplace was really just a pain to deal with and you've passed the point of no return whining about it, stop and add the word 'but' and move on about how you overcame obstacles and cooperated with your team. Your future boss is more interested in your ability to solve the problems. **Don't say: "I love your shoes"**

Needless to say this is hardly relevant when it comes to interviews. Even if your to-be superior is some flashy done-up fashionista, commenting on their appearance will make you come off as unserious and insincere, which is probably the last thing you want. Don't try and force commonalities with your interviewer either - one of the most important things to

remember during any interview is not to lie and not to fake interest. If you're really trying to get on their good-side and can't beat the urge to pay a compliment, do some background research on your interviewer's recent accomplishments and tell them how much you enjoyed reading about it.

**Don't say: "Nope, I don't think I have any questions. You went over everything"**

Not asking questions makes you look nervous at best and unprepared at worst. You're not just looking for a paycheck so if nothing else, ask something like "What do you think really sets apart your employees?" or "What are some of the challenges you face in your industry?" Your future boss is going to learn more about you from the questions you ask than from the answers you give.

AMIYA HALDER

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Dealing with the balance of ethics and the law is a day-to-day challenge for many managers. While you might be inclined to act in ways that are legal in the technical sense, there is value also in recognizing the intent behind a law. Meeting the spirit of the law often comes down to acting in a way that is both legal and ethical. While law and ethics share a close relationship, the two are not the same. This course will clarify the relationship between ethics and law and explore how recognizing the ethics

underlying the law can help you better manage legal issues you face in your duties. As a manager, understanding your responsibility to act ethically and legally is crucial in order to better protect your organization, your staff, and yourself.

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