

# Participation in BUET Development Fund

Dear friends, BUET-alumni, well-wishers, sympathisers and all Bangladeshis at home and abroad.

May I take this opportunity of calling upon you to reminisce your good old days in this Alma Mater, a glorious institution that you still hold so dear to your heart. You would hardly disagree with me that this premier and only Institute of technical learning in the then East Pakistan now Bangladesh shaped your life and future. Shockingly, as the world has marched ahead through innovations in science and technologies and the universities and higher seats of learning throughout the world have followed suit, BUET, your institution of fond memories has yet to keep pace with those thrilling and challenging developments. Truer even, while South Asia's technocrats adopt policies that helped produce "miracle" economies in East Asia, the planners of education in Bangladesh are still neglecting essential ingredients such as health and education, a failing that has kept us below the developmental index. Pathetically true, a crisis developing in this nursery of technical education because of fund crunch has stood in the way to infrastructural development, mainly laboratory expansion, installation of sophisticated equipment and innovations in teaching methods.

Undeniably true, along side the rich attainments and successes we have attained in our respective workplaces, either at home or abroad, we owe a deep debt to this citadel of learning that worked as the building stone of our life. As the government funding for higher education in the country has shrunk abysmally low, BUET like other technical Institutes has been weathering a crisis to develop its old and outdated laboratory facilities that have outlived its utility in the present day world. The crisis has hit BUET hard because it does not have any other source of funding other than government finances.

Dear friends,

You would agree with me that to initiate structural changes as well as developments to gain momentum, major changes are required: more money and vastly improved technical methods. Happily in pursuance of the practice initiated by Dr. M. A. Rashid, founder Vice-Chancellor of BUET, this institution admits only top 800 students now in different disciplines of Engg. out of 4500 students sitting for the Admission Test. These 4500 are selected from among about 8000 applicants with H.S.C. (Science) (Grade XII) background. But the frustration writ large on their faces and the humiliation teachers suffer because of our inability to provide modern tools and sophisticated equipment to these talented group of students is unspeakable. At the moment, BUET gets an annual fund of only 240 million Taka from the government to meet all the expenses of salary of 350 teachers, 1100 employees of different categories and 150 officers plus the case of development of laboratories, library, research centres and other components of day to day use. A sizeable portion of this fund is utilised for giving scholarships to meritorious students in different classes. Mentionably, as per norms in vogue since the inception of this institution, scholarship-holders don't have to pay any tuition fee and there is of course a rule that others will pay Tk. 180 only (about three US dollar) per year per person but in practice none have to pay any amount of tuition fee since all of them are scholarship holders. In such a predicament, this fund-starved premier technical education centre has to look for your philanthropy and generous donation that can only help raise the level of our expectation. Once a bright product of this university and now a prolific worker and an academician of international repute, you owe much to BUET. Given the government's limited resources, the technology – industry partnership should have grown as at other places in the world. But somehow this has not happened in Bangladesh. Here is an opportunity for you to look back to your native place to sow a dream that you might have nurtured in the core of your heart.

Call it a nostalgia-driven philanthropy or a craving for the roots, NRIS (Non-resident Indians) in the state of Punjab in India are ushering in a quiet irrevocable change in the Punjab country side. In Punjab's dollar-rich belts, villages are dotted with schools,

hospitals, health projects and blood banks with plaques of NRI donations. Some of you, I know, have sound knowledge and expertise in the most sophisticated and emerging technical fields. We would, therefore, expect that you may even come up, like the Indians in Punjab, with innovative ideas towards improving educational environment in BUET. Your generous helping hand in making BUET a showcase of development will make us proud of your achievements. Moreover, if the donation is big enough and covers the entire expenses to set up a laboratory or a research centre, it may be named after the donor or donors. I assure you every dollar you invest in BUET would be gratefully acknowledged and your name as a donor would be engraved at a suitable location in BUET campus.

Dear friends,

Donating for a public cause back home, especially for your loving institution in the yesteryears that shaped your life must be a pleasant and fascinating experience and a fulfillment of your lifelong dream. As a former student of Ahsanullah Engineering College now called BUET, a teacher in BUET for long 32 years and now as Vice-Chancellor of BUET for the last 3 years, I feel a passionate urge to raise and develop this institution in line with the developed universities in the world. It would only be in fitting with our values, ethics and principle we acquired from this institution that we could give this place things that are still missing.

During my visit to USA last April, I could discern tremendous goodwill and a groundswell of interest and feeling among the BUET graduates I met at different places. Many of them wanted to help BUET with sophisticated equipment and cash donation in an effort to help BUET meet the world standard. The impediments to flow of such donation reaching Bangladesh has now been cleared up with Bangladesh Bank allowing BUET to open a Foreign Currency (FC) Account under the name **“BUET Development Fund”**. **And this Account No. FC AD 00010 US Dollar Account opened at Sonali Bank Local Office, Dhaka, Bangladesh with corresponding US Dollar Account No. 3582-088259-001 maintained with**

**Standard Chartered Bank, New York** is being operated by joint signatures of the Vice-Chancellor and the Comptroller of BUET. Meanwhile, another **Local Currency Account 33008946** has been opened at the **Sonali Bank, BUET Branch, Dhaka** to help Bangladeshi donors remit funds for BUET. Mentionably, affluent Bangladeshi philanthropists, engineers and generous persons in the country may donate sizeable sums to “BUET Development Fund” (Local Account) with indications of their interest in setting up labs and research centres or anything else they crave for. On behalf of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, I would welcome donation from you all in any form you like. **Anyone willing to contribute may also send an Account Payee Cheque favouring “BUET Development Fund” by Mail or Courier to Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.** Full address is given below:

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Dear friends,

In total assessment of the global needs and tremendous focus on IT-based education and training world-wide, BUET has increased the intake capacity in the undergraduate level in the Computer Science and Engineering Department from 60 to 120 since the academic session 2000-2001. This has been accomplished without a penny from GOB. Moreover, BUET has launched a new IT-related training Institute named “IICT” (Institute of

Information and Communication Technology) to train up personnel in this field and the admission process of 60 students for one-year Postgraduate Diploma course is under way. GOB has kindly given BUET a sum of Tk. 30 million for this.

Dear friends,

Your involvement in surveying the needs of BUET, arranging contribution and monitoring the project would be most welcome. We look forward to the day when BUET with your contributions either in cash or equipment can boast one of the best equipped academic and research centres in the global perspective.

Thank you ever so much for your kind attention. Best wishes to all those who are reading this appeal. May Allah bless us all wherever we are. May Allah give us the strength and capacity to do all the noble deeds we intend to do. May Allah grant Bangladesh peace, prosperity and honour in the world community.

Professor Nooruddin Ahmed  
Vice-Chancellor  
BUET, Dhaka