

Conference on

*Ideas and Innovations for the Development of Bangladesh:  
The Next Decade*

Dates: October 9 & 10, 2009  
(Friday & Saturday)



Bangladesh Development  
Initiative, USA (BDI)



Democracy and Development  
in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF)



Harvard Kennedy School, The Ash Institute  
for Democratic Governance and Innovation

Venue: JFK School of Government  
Harvard University  
79 John F. Kennedy Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

**BDI-DDBF CALL FOR PAPERS**

**IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BANGLADESH: THE NEXT DECADE**

Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI), Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF), and The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government are partnering to organize a two-day international conference to examine the development challenges facing Bangladesh and to foster a culture of innovation geared towards addressing those challenges. The goal of the conference is to generate creative ideas that would result in breakthrough solutions for transitioning Bangladesh to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The conference will be held on October 9–10 (Friday & Saturday), 2009 at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Educators, policy makers, social entrepreneurs, research and development organizations are being invited to submit papers in the following areas:

**I. Topics of interest**

A) Governance and Political Development

- Transparency in government
- Establishment of the rule of law
- Human Rights (specifically women, minorities, and indigenous people)
- The role of the military, bureaucracy, and the political elite in the policy milieu of Bangladesh
- Elections and political development
- Secularism and religion in the politics of Bangladesh
- Civil Service reforms
- Role of civil society and Non-resident Bangladeshis
- Politics and the minority population

B) Investments and Resource Mobilization

- Attracting foreign direct investment (FDI)
- Capital market development (stock markets, domestic capital mobilization)
- Banking and financial sector reforms
- Informal finance, micro-finance etc.
- Balance of payments and remittances
- Export development, entrepreneurship development
- Macroeconomic issues (inflation and growth)
- Industry and sectoral studies
- Foreign exchange issues and international trade

C) Human Infrastructure Strategies

*Literacy and Education*

- Role of primary and secondary education
- Private vs. public education policy
- Higher education policy

- Education management and financing
- Gender and education policy
- Human resource and management policies
- Strengthening research in the education sector
- Access, equity, and quality in education

#### *Health, Population, and Demography*

- Public vs. private health care provision
- Population policy
- Integration of health and population service delivery
- Health care financing
- Access, equity, and quality in health care
- Human resources and management in health care
- Health education
- Demographic transitions and policy implications

#### D) Energy and Environment

- Energy, urbanization, industrialization, and environment
- Energy and industrialization policy
- Alternative and renewable energy policy
- Occupational health and safety measures in energy installations
- Climate change realities and strategies for combating it
- Environmental issues related to energy development
- Energy pricing and energy subsidy policy
- Energy & environment policy and its linkage with sustainable development policy
- Energy projects and rights and survival of indigenous communities
- Coal and natural gas policies

#### E) Media and Culture Industry

- The role of media in developing political accountability
- Objective journalism
- Media market and new investment opportunities
- New trends in music and film industries
- Culture as foreign policy and image-building tool

## **II. Submission Procedures**

Papers may be submitted based on the following guidelines:

- Paper submission should represent original unpublished work on the economic, political, and social issues confronting Bangladesh in the new millennium as suggested by the conference topics that are based on rigorous, careful, and accessible academic research, and that lucidly outline strategic imperatives for the problems they identify, as well as the procedures for their implementation.
- Publication of the papers:
  - The authors/presenters will receive a CD of the *Proceedings* containing the accepted papers.
  - The papers may also be considered for publication in the *Journal of Bangladesh Studies* (JBS). JBS is a peer-reviewed journal on Bangladesh, published two times a year by BDI.
  - Accepted papers may also be published by BDI, DDBF, and The Ash Institute in the form of a book after appropriate editorial consideration. In that event, the authors who register for the conference will receive a copy of the book.

- An abstract of the proposed paper must be submitted by April 30, 2009 and should highlight the focus/research question/hypotheses (to be) tested and be approximately 500 words in length. It must also include the full name, institutional affiliation, phone numbers, and current contact addresses of all authors, including email addresses.
- The abstracts should be sent to one of the five relevant tracks identified below:
  - Track A: [governance-track@bdiusa.org](mailto:governance-track@bdiusa.org)
  - Track B: [investment-track@bdiusa.org](mailto:investment-track@bdiusa.org)
  - Track C: [humaninfra-track@bdiusa.org](mailto:humaninfra-track@bdiusa.org)
  - Track D: [energy-env-track@bdiusa.org](mailto:energy-env-track@bdiusa.org)
  - Track E: [media-cult-track@bdiusa.org](mailto:media-cult-track@bdiusa.org)
- The abstracts will be reviewed by subject area specialists. Authors will be notified of the suitability of their papers by May 15, 2009. If accepted, the full-length paper will be due by July 15, 2009. Final acceptance will be notified by July 31, 2009.
- BDI and DDBF will have full authority to accept or reject any paper. The selection process for papers to be presented will also be very rigorous.

### III. Other Conference Related Information

Detailed registration information will be forthcoming. The registration fee for the conference will be \$200 for paper presenters. This fee will cover access to all the sessions for both days, dinner, ticket to the cultural program and a copy of the intended book(s). The cultural program will be held on the evening of Friday, October 9, 2009 (Time and location TBD). The registration fees for the attendees who will not be presenting papers will be \$100 (\$50 for student attendees and presenters). Hotel rooms will also be blocked out near the venue at preferential prices, details of which will be provided subsequently. Directions to the venue and other details will be updated at the BDI website, [www.bdiusa.org](http://www.bdiusa.org).

### IV. Keynote Speakers

A number of prominent personalities are being approached to deliver keynote speeches, plenary speeches, dinner speeches, etc., at the conference.

### V. For Further Information

- Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, President, BDI ([saadandaleeb@gmail.com](mailto:saadandaleeb@gmail.com))
- Dr. Farida Khan, Vice President, BDI ([faridackhan@gmail.com](mailto:faridackhan@gmail.com))
- Dr. Munir Quddus, Secretary, BDI ([muquddus@pvamu.edu](mailto:muquddus@pvamu.edu))
- Dr. Kazi F. Jalal, President, DDBF ([kjalal@deas.harvard.edu](mailto:kjalal@deas.harvard.edu))
- Dr. Adnan Z. Morshed, Vice President, DDBF ([morshed@cua.edu](mailto:morshed@cua.edu))
- Mr. Mahmood Akhter, Secretary, DDBF ([dxbf.usa@gmail.com](mailto:dxbf.usa@gmail.com))

### **About Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI)**

BDI is a USA-based non-profit organization comprised of independent scholars associated with institutions of higher education in the United States and involved in scholarly exchanges between the United States and Bangladesh through establishing educational programs, publishing an academic journal, sustaining a book publication program to archive indigenous knowledge, and organizing conferences that debate policy prerogatives for Bangladesh and its various sectors. BDI also includes professionals who are involved in supporting social development initiatives in Bangladesh.

BDI was founded in 1988, headquartered in Pennsylvania, USA, to promote the production of high-value-added products such as durable and capital goods in Bangladesh. Equipped with an understanding that Bangladesh's economic development problem lies on the demand side of the equation rather than the supply side, instigated by an anomalous tax structure, BDI has always advocated the establishment of an environment of fair competition in Bangladesh so as to allow the domestic producers a fair chance to market their products and in turn improve their products through research and development (R&D). BDI feels that the establishment of the production of durable and capital goods, supported by domestic R&D, is the preferred way to increase the labor productivity of Bangladeshi citizens to a desired level. More can be learned about BDI on its web site: [www.bdiusa.org](http://www.bdiusa.org).

### **About Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum (DDBF)**

DDBF is a recently-formed non-profit organization of Bangladeshi scholars and professionals residing in the Greater Boston area of Massachusetts, USA. DDBF was conceptualized in 2006 when the national image of Bangladesh in the international community had hit a rock bottom due to political turmoil which brought development activities into a halt. DDBF was formed primarily with three objectives; Firstly, establishing a positive image of Bangladesh to the different stakeholders in North America. Secondly, bringing together experts drawn from the Bangladeshi Diaspora and "Friends of Bangladesh" to create a standing source of database which could be tapped by the Bangladesh government as well as the private sector seeking any possible advise and expertise available; and Thirdly, conducting open debates and discussions on issues of current interest on the subject with the objective of bringing together the Diaspora and to leverage their strength as well as explore their potential towards promoting true democratic movement and development of Bangladesh. DDBF is currently working as a loose network of organizations, academics and professionals with a core group comprised of a few dedicated individuals. The motivation and aspiration is to promote democracy and development in Bangladesh.

### **About The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance & Innovation**

The Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University fosters excellence in government around the world in order to generate and strengthen democracy. Through its research, publications, curriculum support, global network, and awards program, the Ash Institute explores critical issues in democratic practice and effective governance. By engaging a broad, global community in which knowledge is shared, by generating and supporting research and curriculum materials, and by highlighting exemplary government programs, the Institute serves as a catalyst for successfully addressing many of the world's most pressing concerns and, in turn, improving the lives of its citizens.