



NEWSLETTER

January 2012

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SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH CONVENTION AT DHAKA

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI), in collaboration with Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), hosted the 'South Asian Youth Convention - Lead 2012' on the 7th and 8th of January, 2012. Prominent guests from the SAARC countries were invited to Dhaka for this two-day convention.

Divided into a number of sessions, 'Lead 2012' focused on the power of youth and its rising contribution in South Asia. The convention was held at the Bangabandhu International Convention Center (BICC) on the 7th and at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on the 8th of January 2012.

JAAGO Foundation provided volunteer support as well as hosts for the event, from its volunteer platform, Volunteer for Bangladesh (VBD).

The convention began with an inauguration hosted by H.E. President Zillur Rahman, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. This was followed by guest speakers Mr. G.M. Quader, Honorable Commerce Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Mr. A.M.A. Muhith, Honorable Finance Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Ms. Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed, SAARC Secretary General, Maldives.

The first session of the convention focusing on leadership, brought some of the most famous leaders of South Asia together such as Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Former Diplomat & Member of Parliament of India and Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Honorable Member of Parliament, Bangladesh.



The second session of the day focused on the youth entrepreneurs of the region. Hosted by Mr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney, President of SAARC CCI (Elect.) & CEO of SUN Group, India with Moderator Mr. Ejaj Ahmad, Founder & President of Bangladesh Youth Leader Centre, the session focused on 'Young Entrepreneurs - Rising South Asia : Promises and Dreams'. The prominent guests of the session were Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra; Mr. Suhas Gopinath, CEO & Chairman of Globals Inc. India and the youngest CEO of the World; Mr. Anand Bagaria, Managing Director of Probiotech Industries P Ltd and Mr. Korvi Rakshand, Founder-Chairman of JAAGO Foundation.

Korvi Rakshand, Founder of JAAGO foundation, began his speech with a documentary featuring the JAAGO School and its students. Mr. Rakshand also shared his dream of one day opening a school in every district of the country. He finished his speech with the inspirational words, "People call it charity; I call it Responsibility."

Touched by the words of Mr. Rakshand, Mr. Rajat Sharma, Chairman and Editor-in Chief of India TV and Host of 'Aap Ki Adalat' threw away the script he had previously prepared for the session and spoke from his heart. He described his early years as a struggling child in one of the least developed areas of India, living in a slum with no electricity, gas or water.





The first day of the convention ended with a mesmerizing performance by two prominent singers of the subcontinent - Runa Laila of Bangladesh and Nazim Shiraj of Pakistan.

The Women's Session began the second day of the convention - 'What does it take to battle Bias?', where prominent female personalities of South Asia discussed the problems they had faced in their lives. Mrs. Rubana Huq, Managing Director of Mohammadi Group, introduced the speakers of the session. Ms. Pramila Acharya Rijal, President of the South Asian Women's Entrepreneurs Council; Dr. Maleka Begum, Professor of the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka; Mrs. Vani Kola, Managing Director of Indo-US Venture Partners (IUVV), India; Mrs. Vandana Luthra, Founder & Chairperson of VLCC, India and Mrs. Zarine Aziz, President of First Women Bank, Pakistan talked about the various aspects and struggles of their lives. Dr. Dipu Moni, Honorable Foreign Minister of the Government of Bangladesh, appreciated each speaker's words and answered their questions.



The last session of the day was on how to connect and inspire, hosted by the Honorable Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Abul Kalam Azad and moderator Mr. Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star.

Mr. Simon Dring, Former MD of Ekushey TV and Former Correspondent Reuters, the Daily Telegraph, London and BBC; Mr. Jawed Naqvi, Columnist of The Dawn of Pakistan in Delhi; Mr. Nurul Kabir, Editor of New Age, Bangladesh; Mr. Mark Tully, Former Chief of Bureau of BBC, New Delhi also inspired the audience with their eloquent speeches.

In the cultural part of the evening, Sonam Choden Retty, Miss Bhutan and Sadichha Shrestha, Miss Nepal gave inspirational speeches about their dreams to see a united South Asia. The convention came to a close with a fashion show by Rina Latif Designs and performance by a Sri Lankan Dance Team.

WORLD SAVVY COMES TO JAAGO

Under World Savvy's American-Bangladeshi Youth Leadership Program (ABLYP), 13 students from various high schools of USA and 5 students from Scholastica of Bangladesh spent 5 days in JAAGO Foundation's Rayer Bazar Premises. The students conducted extensive surveys on the slum around Rayer Bazar to study the reality of climate change on Bangladesh.

During their stay at JAAGO Foundation from the 2nd to the 6th of January, the students visited the slums of Rayer Bazar and asked questions about the lifestyles of the residents. They captured several interviews on tape which they would later turn into a documentary for their project.

The students also hosted a 'Road Cleaning' Project and a 'Tree Planting' Project around the JAAGO Foundation School Campus.

Kazi Riad Omar from Kaharba Productions, visited the guests to give them a few pointers on successful documentary making. The guests hand made a present of a wall mat for their host students of Scholastica.

World Savvy conducts enrichment programs for American High and Middle School students to engage them in global affairs as well as the global community. The students, for this project, were chosen from different states and high schools as well as a wide diversity of backgrounds.



GIFTS FOR KARAIL

Students of JAAGO Foundation's Karail branch received a warm visit and presents of winter blankets from A.K.M. Nurul Fazal Bulbul, the General Secretary of EXIM Bank on the 12th of January, 2012. Mr. Bulbul took the initiative to donate blankets after meeting JAAGO's Founder, Korvi Rakshand at the SAARC Youth Convention 2012.

Asaduzzaman Kohinoor, General Secretary of Bangladesh Handball Federation was also present during the distribution.

After giving the guests a tour of the Karail school, Korvi Rakshand took them to the classrooms where the kids recited poems to welcome the guests. Children were then personally presented with the blankets by Mr. Bulbul, who playfully wrapped the toddlers with their gifts.



JAAGO STUDENTS GET SWEATERS FROM ANNIE RAHMAN

With the unpredictable harsh weather of January 2012, the students of JAAGO Foundation School were facing many problems in coming to school. As their schools reopened after the Winter Vacation, the weather also worsened. In this dire situation, Sheikh Annie Rahman stepped forward.

Mrs. Annie Rahman donated 360 sweaters for the students of JAAGO School. The navy blue sweaters became a part of their uniform as soon as they were distributed to the students on January 10, 2012.

The donation of these 360 sweaters will not only help our students to fight the bitter cold, but also look impressive with their uniform. This is the first time that sweaters were given out to the students as a part of their uniform.



JAAGO ATTENDS ICT CONFERENCE



Four teachers from the JAAGO Foundation School, along with the Education Coordinator of the Rayer Bazar Branch, attended the 'Conference on Innovative ICT Use in Secondary Education' on the 10th of January, 2012.

The event included speeches from ICT experts and notable personnel like Pete Sharma, Lecturer at Warwick University, the Additional Secretary of MoE, the Project Director of TQI, British council's implementation partners BARCIK and TDI and David Mathias, a colleague from East Asia who was involved in the design of the online platform.

Members of the JAAGO Team exhibited the 'online school' project, where students living in areas with very little facilities can receive an education of International Standard using innovative technology. A pilot phase of the online school is successfully operating in Tongi where the teachers instruct the kids from Rayer Bazaar using internet.

JAAGO KIDS PLAY LEGENDS OF MANCHESTER UNITED

Airtel Telecom had made the Bangladeshi football fanatics go crazy with excitement after their announcement of bringing two Manchester United legends, Bryan Robson and Dwight Yorke, to Bangladesh to announce Airtel as Manchester United's official telecom partner in Bangladesh.

This press conference was held at Banani Society Field, Kemal Ataturk Avenue on January 24, 2012. Chris Tobit, CEO of Airtel Bangladesh, was present at the media addressing. He, along with Mr. Robson and Mr. Yorke, presented their respective speeches and jointly made the announcement. The speeches were followed by the unveiling of the Manchester United jersey with the Airtel logo on it. One of the most exciting bits of this whole fanfare was the showcasing of the original 19th Premier League Championship trophy bagged by Manchester United in 2010-11.

A friendly match of football took place afterwards. The two teams - 'Red' and 'White', consisted of six players each - five JAAGO kids and one of the legends!

These underprivileged children of JAAGO Foundation got the chance to play football with two of the biggest legends of all times.

Dwight Yorke was the first to score a goal playing for the 'Red' team. His team won with a total of 2-0. This friendly match was concluded with a photo session of the legends along with the JAAGO kids and the JAAGO team.

Another treat for all the attendees present at this event was the opportunity to be able to take pictures posing with the original 19th Premier League Championship trophy!

The volunteers of VBD, the volunteer platform of JAAGO Foundation, were also present to see their idols at the field.



DRAMA ON 'CORPORAL PUNISHMENT'



Students of JAAGO Foundation School's Rayer Bazar performed a drama based on 'Stop Corporal Punishment' on the 17th of January, 2012. Kids from Class 1 and 2 performed in the play, highlighting the effects on corporal punishment on the society today.

Corporal punishment was banned in Bangladesh on 13th of January, 2011 after a series of horrifying events reported in the newspaper. Sir Frank Peters, former Editor and Publisher, human right worker, is credited with the success of this ban.

At JAAGO School, corporal punishment is completely prohibited and any teacher who is seen practicing corporal punishment is discarded immediately. Our students, many of whom have seen examples of corporal punishment in their schools or localities are well aware of the influence of physical retribution on children. The survey officers and school counselors warn parents against the usage of corporal punishment on at home. Any parent who is known to physically punish their kids is consulted by the survey team at the JAAGO School.

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear All,

Happy New year from the JAAGO Family! This winter has been tough, but our efforts to help out the less fortunate members of the society battle the harsh chills have been tougher. Thanks to Mrs Annie Rahman and A.K.M Nurul Fazal Bulbul for helping our kids stay healthy during the cold weather.

The SAARC Youth convention was an eye-opener for me and a completely new different experience for volunteers from Volunteer for Bangladesh (VBD). I am proud to have witnessed our volunteers act as such great ambassadors for Bangladesh. I hope that from the future Bangladesh will host many more notable personalities to inspire the future leaders in our country.

World Savvy gave us the wonderful opportunity to welcome high school students from the US and Scholastica in the Rayer Bazar head office. British Council's ICT conference gave us an insight into the most innovative ways technology can be used to harness education and development.

Our students have been enjoying themselves thoroughly this month. Some of the students got the opportunity to play with two of the greatest legends of Manchester United - Mr. Bryan Robson and Mr. Dwight Yorke. At the middle of the month, the students performed an interesting drama on the effects of 'Corporal Punishment' which was entertaining as well as enlightening to the audience.

2012 has been off to a great start for JAAGO and Volunteer for Bangladesh, and this could not have been possible without your support. We hope that this year, we will open more schools in Bangladesh, provide volunteering opportunities to more youngsters and bring smiles to the faces of more kids.

Regards,

Korvi Rakshand.
Founder
JAAGO Foundation

