

2002/september

BU Team Visits Philippines & Singapore

Prof Abdur Rab, Chairperson, Department of Management & Business Administration, BU and Ms. Husna Mehnaz Siddiqi, Lecturer, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, BU made official visits to various reputed institutions of Singapore and Philippines from September 23 to September 27, 2002. They visited INSEAD (Singapore), the National University of Singapore (NUS), University of Philippines (Dilimar). Prof. Rab, additionally visited University of Philippines, Manila and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). During the visits fruitful discussions were carried out with the Vice Dean, Computer Science Department, NUS, Head of the Department of Engineering, International Relations Officers, NUS, Head of the Department of Computer Science, UP, Dilimar, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UP, Manila, Dean, College of Business Administration, UP, Manila. At AIM, Prof. Rab had discussions with the President as well as the Dean of Institute and senior teachers of Business Administration and Center for Development Management and the Executive Manager of ICT.

Faculty Development Workshop

BU organized its second Faculty Development Workshop at BCDM, Rajendrapur from September 6 to September 11, 2002. The first phase of the workshop dealt with "Teaching Methods and Academic System of BRAC University". A total of 33 faculty members participated in this workshop. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU, Dr. Faisal M Rahman (Graham School of Business, Chicago), Professor Abdur Rab, Chairperson, Department of Business and Management, Dr. Yousuf M Islam, Chairperson, CSE, and Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Dhaka University were the facilitators of the three-day program. The second phase dealing with "Communication Effectiveness in English and Improvement in Computer Skills" was held in BRAC University Campus from September 9 to September 11, 2002. Dr. Dina Forkan of NSU and Mr. A T M Sajedul Huq of BU were the facilitators of this second part of the faculty development workshop. The Computer Skills sessions were conducted by Mr. Junaed Sattar, Ms. Husna Mehnaz Siddiqi and Ms. Rafa Absar, Lecturers of BU. Professor J R Choudhury, the Vice Chancellor of BU, awarded certificates to the participants of the Workshop.

New Teachers Join BU

Following teachers have joined BU since September 15, 2002:

Department of Architecture:

Dr. Zainab F Ali, Associate Professor

Dr. Quazi Mohammad Mehtabuzzaman, Assistant Professor

Department of Computer Science & Engineering:

Dr. Sayeed Salam, Assistant Professor

Cultural Club

As a part of BU/BRAC Synergy Program, BU Cultural Club went on a study tour to watch a BRAC Ganantok (Open-Air Theatre) performance on Saturday, September 28, 2002. The trip also included visits to BRAC Pathagar (Library), Tissue Culture Center and Aarong Dairy production unit situated in Ghazipur. The drama performance took place in evening, and it was indeed a unique experience for the students and faculty members to see the development of a drama under the open sky using locally available resources. The faculty members- Professor Firdous Azim, Ms. Afia Arafat and Ms. Mahfida Tahniat from English and Humanities Department accompanied the students and members of the cultural club. Mr. Shah Jahan of the BRAC Social Development Unit accompanied the BU team.

Exhibition 2002, Department of Architecture

The Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury inaugurated the first exhibition of the works of students of the Department of Architecture, BU on September 24 at the Department of Architecture. The exhibition consisted of the design projects of Freshman 1 and 2. As a part of the exhibition, Angan, the forum for co-curricular activities of the department arranged an evening lecture titled "Works of Young Architects". Two prominent architects of the country, Architect Rafiq Azam of Shattoto: Architecture for Green Living and Architect Jalal Ahmad of J A Architects presented their works to an audience of students of architecture from different schools and practicing architects. The exhibition was open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM till October 1, 2002. The department of Architecture, one of the new schools in Bangladesh created immense interest among visitors about the philosophy, direction and pedagogical tools of the school, depicted through the exhibits.

Course in English for Uttar Bangla Degree College (UBC)

Based on a collaborative arrangement between BU and UBC, ten Lecturers of Uttar Bangla Degree College were enrolled in September 2002. They successfully completed ENG 100, English for General Purpose course. Ms. Ruhma Khalil Choudhury, Lecturer of BU, conducted the course. The Department of English of BU offered the 3-credit course. The Classes started on September 1, 2002 and ended on September 19, 2002.

Academic Council Meeting

The 5th Academic Council Meeting with the Vice Chancellor in the chair was held at the University Conference room from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on September 17, 2002.

Fulbright Scholar at BU

Dr. Anwarul Hoque, Senior Fulbright Scholar is attending BU as Visiting Professor in Economics for the 2002-3 academic year. In Fall Semester he is teaching International Trade Course. During his stay here, he will be researching on issues relating to trade and rural development. Dr. Hoque has obtained Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics and MA in Economics from Michigan State University, USA, and MSc in Statistics from the University of Dhaka. He has taught at US universities for many years. He is currently employed with the US Department of Agriculture in Washington DC, USA. Dr. Hoque joined BU on September 15, 2002.

Fall, 2002 Begins

The Fall Semester, 2002 of BU has commenced on September 15. This semester, a total of 334 new students have been enrolled in the departments of Computer Science & Engineering, Management & Business, Economics & Social Science, English & Humanities and Architecture.

Orientation Program, Fall 2002

The Orientation program for new students (Fall Semester, 2002) was held on Thursday, September 12. The VC addressed the audience; he introduced the students and guardians to BU. This was followed by a presentation by Professor Abdur Rab, Chairperson of Management & Business Department, who spoke about the BU Academic System and Rules. Dr. Yousuf M Islam, Chairperson of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering spoke on the Methods of Learning. A guided tour of the university campus was then conducted for the new students. Later the students met the teachers of their respective departments.

MDS Program Approved

University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved the Masters of Development Studies (MDS) Program of BU on September 12, 2002. A team headed by Professor S R Osmani, Ph.D. designed the course. BU can now launch the program at a time of its convenience.

Visit to AIT

Dr. A A Ziauddin Ahmad, of the Department of Mathematics & Natural Science, BU visited AIT, Bangkok, Thailand on September 5, 2002 and had very fruitful discussion with Professor Mario T Tabucanon, Provost of AIT regarding respective programs of BU and AIT. They also discussed the possible future cooperation between BU and AIT. Professor Tabucanon informed that in the future some of BU graduates could be offered scholarships by AIT to pursue postgraduate studies at AIT in the relevant fields. Later Dr. Ziauddin had meetings with Professor Chongrak Polprasert, Dean, School of Environment, Resources and Development and Dr. Jayant K Routray, Program Coordinator, Rural Development, Gender and Resources. Both of them emphasized the need for establishing and strengthening of linkage programs between AIT and BU. Dr. Ziauddin also visited the Asian Center for Research on Remote Sensing, Space Technology Applications and Research Program and had meeting with Dr. Koki Iwao of the Center.

Grade Sheet of Summer Semester

The Grade sheets of Summer Semester 2002 were distributed to the students from September 3 to September 5, 2002.

Professor Osmani Joins BU as a Visiting Professor

Siddiq Osmani is Professor of Development Economics at the University of Ulster, United Kingdom and a Visiting Professor at BRAC University, Dhaka. He obtained Ph.D. in economics from the London School of Economics and then worked at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dhaka and at the World Institute for Development Economics Research, Helsinki before joining the University of Ulster. He has published widely on issues related to poverty, inequality, hunger, famine, nutrition, and development problems in general and his books include Economic Inequality and Group Welfare and Nutrition and Poverty. He is currently serving as Special Adviser to the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights on matters related to economic rights. Professor Osmani joined BU on September 1, 2002.