

23 March 2014

Participating at Hult Prize Competition in Shanghai

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BRAC University recently made its global presence felt yet again when its students participated in the 5th annual Hult Prize this March in Shanghai, China. The Hult Prize is the world's largest student competition for which over 10,000 applicants from universities and colleges from all over the world vie for but only 300 among them get selected. Then they compete in 6 global regions with their social business pitch. It is organised by the Hult International Business School in partnership with President Bill Clinton's foundation the Clinton Global Initiative.

BRAC University was one of only two universities from Bangladesh that participated in the Hult Prize this year where the team had to meet the President's challenge: tackling chronic non-communicable diseases in the slums of the world. The event ran from the 7th until the 9th of March, 2014. The participants had to attend an orientation program and seminars and the event culminated in a daylong presentation session where the teams had to pitch their social business ideas to a panel of judges looking for one that would meet the President's challenge head on. The BRAC University team was among the top 8 of all 30 teams that presented their ideas and a team from Canada's York University got the chance to make it to the final round that will take place in New York in September.

The teams' participation was not limited to only pitching the idea for a social enterprise but also enriching themselves through sessions with specialists in healthcare, business and academia as well as exchanging ideas with students and professionals from diverse backgrounds. Being one of the very few undergraduate teams among mostly postgraduate and doctorate students gave the BRACU team great uplift. The experience of superb Shanghai is one of the best memories.

The writer is a member of BRACU HULT team