



Mr. Abed with President Clinton and the other award winners

BRAC Chairperson receives first Clinton Global Citizen Award

BRAC Founder and Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed was honoured with the Inaugural Clinton Global Citizen Awards by Former US President Bill Clinton on 27 September, 2007 at Carnegie Hall in New York. The prestigious award, also presented to three other change-makers, marks their outstanding achievements which have inspired change and made a positive impact on the world.

"The amazing people we celebrate here today are proving without a doubt that one person can change the world," President Clinton said. "I hope that by shining a spotlight on their achievements, others will be inspired to join their efforts or take further action to improve lives and build a stronger future."

Mr. Abed was presented the award by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai. "Fazle Hasan Abed..." his citation read, "...has helped lift millions of people out of poverty through education, healthcare, and microfinance programs in Bangladesh and beyond. He founded BRAC on the belief that poverty must be tackled from a holistic viewpoint, transitioning individuals from being aid recipients to becoming empowered citizens in control of their own destinies".



Mr. Abed accepting the award from Dr. Maathai

Award winners were recognized in front of a crowd of their peers: fellow leaders in government, nonprofit, business and entertainment sectors who had gathered in New York for the Clinton Global Initiative's 2007 Annual Meeting to discuss solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Other winners of the award included tennis star Andre Agassi, Founder of the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation, Vicky Colbert, Executive Director of the Escuela Nueva Foundation and John Chambers, Chairman and CEO of Cisco Systems.

BRAC makes \$271 million commitment to education

BRAC has committed \$271 million to provide educational facilities to 7.5 million children and youth in Asia and Africa over the next five years. The announcement came from Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of BRAC on the first day of the three-day Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting held on September, 2007 in New York which bring together global leaders from different fields to address the world's most pressing problems.

Earlier, BRAC partnered with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the NoVo Foundation and BRAC USA to mobilise resources and provide a continuum of innovative educational opportunities for poor children, especially girls, in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Tanzania, Uganda and Southern Sudan. The programme is expected to benefit by offering pre-primary, non-formal primary and secondary schooling as well as skills training and undergraduate and advanced degrees relevant to the needs of developing countries.

For the purpose, \$51.8 million is expected to be spent in 2008 and build up to \$271 million by 2012, of which \$221m will be spent in Bangladesh, \$21 million in Afghanistan, \$12 million in Uganda, \$11 million in Southern Sudan and \$6 million in Tanzania.

News from BRAC Human Resources Division...

Orientation on Performance Management

A three-day long Performance Management Orientation was organized by BRAC HRD for the field-level managerial personnel to monitor and evaluate the employees' performance in the correct manner and in the process increase the employees' efficiency.

Decentralisation of HRD

With an aim to reach out to all the staffs easily and quickly, BRAC HRD has decentralized its various activities at all levels. As the first step, preparation and distribution of joining letter for

field staffs has been brought under the responsibility of Field HRD Officers. This will reduce the bottle-neck pressure and help issue the joining letters within a month of appointment. Since July 2007, 3,131 field employees out of 4,039 have received their letters.

Gender Focal Point Initiated

The Gender, Justice and Diversity Unit of BRAC has selected 22 Gender Focal Point (GFP) persons from every programme and department of BRAC to guarantee a gender-friendly working environment and ensure sensitivity on gender issues, in-line with BRAC's Gender Policy. A two-day long workshop was organized on 8th-9th October 2007 to this end, which included all the GFP and various issues were discussed on mainstreaming gender at BRAC, gender action plan, responsibilities of the GFP, implementation of Gender Policy, etc. Recommendations included initiatives to prioritize female staff recruitment and retention at every level.

Formal opening of BRAC Training Centre in Dinajpur

The formal opening of BRAC's Dinajpur Training and Resource Centre (TARC) took place on 27 October. Executive Director Dr Mahabub Hossain spoke on the occasion in the presence of a distinguished cross-section of civil elite and senior district-level government officials. This new multi-faceted TARC has a residential facility for 100 participants and a scenic location situated in Amrobagan, Dinajpur. It has a large auditorium with modern training facilities. With the establishment of the Dinajpur TARC, BRAC Training Division now has a total of 20 such facilities.

BRAC Chairperson Speaks at Beijing Global Poverty & Hunger Conference

Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder and Chairperson, BRAC, attended the 2020 Vision Conference, "Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People," in Beijing, China from October 17-19, 2007. At a parallel session on creating and enhancing the assets of the rural poor, under the heading "Microfinance: What type of microfinance interventions are needed to enable the poorest to improve their asset base?" Mr. Abed offered insight gained from his experience with microfinance interventions undertaken by BRAC.

The conference was organised in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and The State Council Leading Group on Poverty Alleviation and Development of China. Drawing upon research and experiences of experts from around the world, the conference devised new and innovative strategies for helping the poorest and the hungry.

Discussion on Tuberculosis Control and Social Participation

BRAC Advocacy and Human Rights Unit organised a round table discussion on



Tuberculosis Control and Social Participation on 20th September 2007 at BRAC Centre INN. Organized jointly by BRAC and The Daily Samakal, the objective of the roundtable was to build public awareness about tuberculosis (TB), discuss the role of journalists in tackling the issue, work towards changing negative attitudes towards TB patients and disseminating correct information about TB.



Participants from all walks of life as well as renowned personalities including TB experts, electronic and print media personalities, such as Editor of The Daily Samakal Mr. Abed Khan, BRAC Health Programme Director Mr. Faruque Ahmed, Deputy Manager of the National TB Programme Dr. Viqarunnisa Begum, noted singers Fahmida Chawdhury and Asif Akbar and noted actress and social worker Ms. Sarah Zaker shared their views in the session.

Bangladesh Country Coordinating Mechanism visits BRAC Health Programme

Members of the Bangladesh Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) team visited BRAC Health Programme's activities funded by the Global fund to Fight AIDs, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in Chittagong and Jessore from 29th September to 4th October 2007. The CCM, which plays the central role to GFATM's commitment to local ownership and participatory decision-making, comprises senior government officials and other NGO members involved in providing funds to and operating various health services in Bangladesh.

The team, headed by Health Secretary Mr. Zafarullah Chowdhury, received first hand knowledge of the activities carried out by BRAC in the health sector. Dr Faruque Ahmed, Director, BRAC Health Programme and senior officials from BRAC accompanied the team.

Among BRAC's activities, they observed the Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTs) for TB and other community health interventions carried out by BRAC health volunteers. They also visited peripheral laboratories and the EPZ & prison components of the TB programme as well as the BRAC Malaria laboratory, the TB & Malaria Project and Life Skills Education of BRAC's HIV Project. Alongside, they also visited programmes of other NGOs under the funding of GFATM.