

COMMUNICATION OF ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW



Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: October 3, 2016

To: October 2, 2018



Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW)

Statement of Continued Support

August 18, 2018

To our stakeholders:

Greetings from the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW.

I am pleased to confirm that the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Lt. General (Retd.) M. Nooruddin Khan, *psc*
President



Actions taken by the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) in support of UN Global Compact Principles

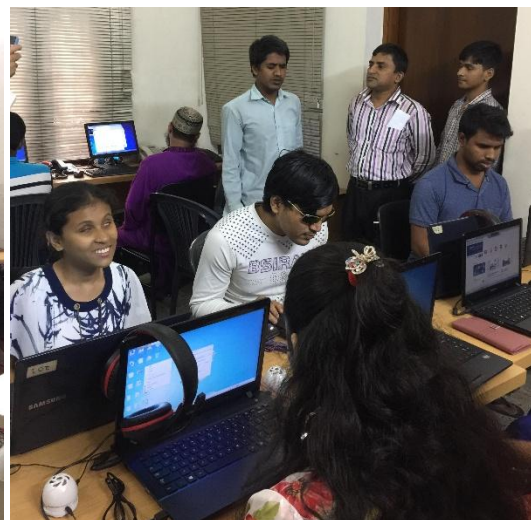
The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW is a research think tank committed to peace and human development. A key focus area of the Institute is upholding human rights including rights of persons with disability. Training, research and advocacy are the key areas of its work.

Training

Training for visually impaired on Information Technology, PABX & Call Center, and Spoken English: The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW is a think tank which focuses on improving the lives of persons with disabilities through different projects. It provides free-of-charge IT training and free access to its IT center/lab for visually impaired persons. The main components of the IT program is to acquaint students to computer screen reading software, speech synthesizers, and self-voicing software, web surfing, using Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint with JAWS and DAISY. These lessons are aimed towards helping them gain better access to information and enhance their knowledge and learning. Since 2013, the Institute has started training on telesales and call center operations to help visually impaired persons gain employable skills. Till date the Institute has provided training for over 400 visually impaired trainees since its inception in 2003.



Orientation Class for the Visually Impaired Trainees



IT Training Class

Research, Awareness & Advocacy

Legal Support for women, minorities and disabled persons: The Institute provides free legal counseling and redress of grievances for the visually impaired and destitute women. It conducts various advocacy programs in order to generate greater awareness on the rights of visually impaired. It also conducts engagement programs such as nationwide essay competition for the visually impaired every year and observes international events targeted towards this section of society such as World White Sticks Day and the UN International Day for Disabled Persons etc. Other activities of the Institute are researches on human rights including right of migrant workers, rights of persons in police custody, means to address human trafficking, climate induced migration etc.

During the period October 3, 2016 to October 2, 2018, the Institute has conducted the following programs in support of the United Nations Global Compact Principles:

1. Roundtable Discussion for promoting awareness on human rights, labour and SDG Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment.
2. International Summer School on Human Rights 2018
3. Essay Competition for the Visually Impaired
4. Business Idea Competition for the Visually Impaired

Roundtable Discussion

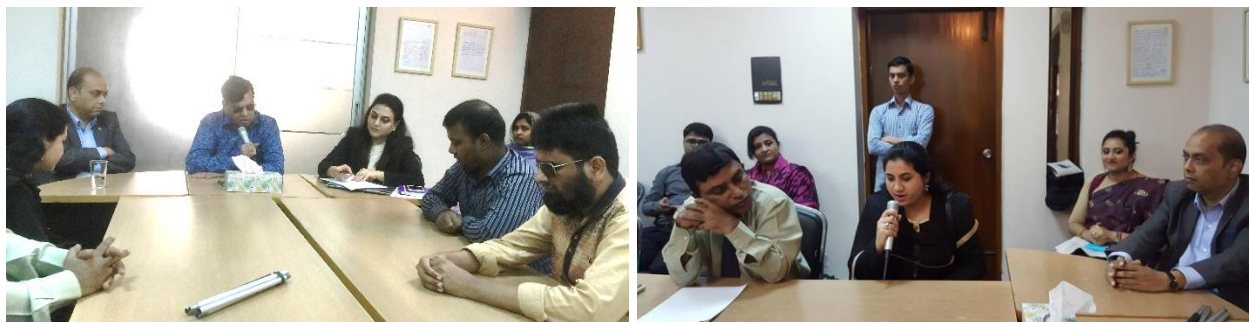
To express its solidarity with the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2016 and deliberate on SDG Goal 8 on decent work for all, the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW organized a Roundtable on December 3, 2016 at the Institute's Board Room.

The discussion examined the legal rights of persons with disability and the initiatives taken by the Government of Bangladesh towards promoting a more inclusive society.



Roundtable on UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) to discuss SDG Goal 8: Decent work for all.

Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri, Former Member, UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from Bangladesh chaired the discussion and Mr. Md. Amiruzzaman, Secretary General of Consular Corps and Honorary Consul of Republic of Seychelles in Bangladesh attended as Honorable Special Guest.



Speakers at the round table discussion on promotion of decent work for all.

In his speech Mr. Choudhuri stressed the importance of hard work and determination and encouraged the participants to focus on their strengths and the opportunities that come their way. Ms. Seema Iqbal highlighted the legal rights of persons with disability in Bangladesh.

Hon. Mr. Md. Amiruzzaman reflected on the employment initiatives taken by the country's corporates. Ms. Nuvana Haque, a visually impaired musician and student of the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW stressed on the urgency of dispelling prejudice on disabled persons through awareness and information exchange. Barrister Reazul Karim, Director Legal Affairs of the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW mentioned that the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW is dedicated towards empowering persons with disability through information technology - the

training services, advocacy and legal support are the modalities of the Institute's work. Barrister Rizwana Yusuf, Director Administration of the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW discussed the various initiatives by the Government of Bangladesh taken up by the employment, education and transport sector that helps persons with disabilities to lead lives of independence and dignity.

The roundtable was attended by visually impaired practitioners, human rights activists, autism consultant, childhood development specialist, IT specialist, journalist and visually impaired students of the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW.

International Summer School on Human Rights

The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW in collaboration with Knowledge Steez of India and Daffodil International University organized the International Summer School on Human Rights 2018 from July 1, 2018 to July 5, 2018. Learning organizations Lex Oration and BOLD joined the initiative as partners. The event took place in the Daffodil University's Dhanmondi Campus. A total of 35 students including 10 International participants took part in the Summer School.

The main motto of the International Summer School was to uphold the significance of human rights and humanity irrespective of caste, creed or religion. It provided a platform for delegates from different countries to learn about human rights. It also provided an international exposure in the field of human rights, CSR, social problems, climate governance & refugee protection.

The very 1st Session was taken by Dr. Mahbubul Islam, Honourable Vice Chancellor of DIU. He discussed the effective use of intellect for making positive changes in ourselves as well as to the society.

2nd Session: Dr. Kavita Singh, Assistant Professor, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, deliberated on several examples of human rights violations & also proposed some recommendations in the light of laws on how we can ensure juvenile justice by making a change in the infrastructural systems.

3rd Session: Barrister Rizwana Yusuf highlighted one of the most burning issues prevailing in Bangladesh that is protection and livelihood options for refugees and migrants. She also proposed a remarkable solution such as employing refugees towards reviving sick industries, and converting them into human capitals.

4th Session: Dr. Rumana Islam, Lecturer from Dhaka University, discussed about CSR and its implications and lasting impact on society.

5th Session: Mr. Niteesh Upadhyay, Founder of Knowledge Steez India, discussed about breaking stereotypes and ways for ensuring gender equality.

6th Session: Barrister Hamidul Misbah spoke about bridging the gap between human rights and intellectual property rights.

7th Session: Prof. Dr. Farhana Helal Mehtab, Associate Dean, Daffodil International University, discussed about prevailing social problem and violations of human rights among people with disability as well proposed means for overcoming it.

8th Session: Ms. Mrinalini Banerjee, Assistant Professor, GD Goenka University, discussed about human rights in business ventures and the rights and obligations on both the employer and the employee sides.

9th Session Ms. Arpeeta Shams Mizan, Lecturer, University of Dhaka detailed about gender discriminations that are prevailing in our society and how can we ensure equity and justice by changing our social perspectives.

10th Session Mr. Pankaj Avasthi, Assistant Professor, G. D. Goenka University, Gurgaon, India delivered a comparative analysis on Hindu Law and Muslim Law on matters concerning human rights.



From left to right: Ms. Mrinalini Banerjee, Assistant Professor, GD Goenka University, Mr. Pankaj Avasthi, Assistant Professor, GD Goenka University, Dr. Kavita Singh, Assistant Professor, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Mr. Niteesh Upadhyay, Founder of Knowledge Steez India & Chair of Center for Human Rights at Galgotias University, India and Barrister Rizwana Yusuf, Director Administration at the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW and Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh can be seen in the picture along with the trainees.

The Summer School ended with a befitting Certificate Giving Ceremony which was attended by Madam Justice Naima Haider, Hon'able Judge of High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh as the Chief Guest. Pro Vice Chancellor of Daffodil International University Prof. Dr. S. M. Mahbub Ul Haque Majumder, Professor Dr. Farhana Helal Mehtab Associate Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science from Daffodil International University, Barrister Rizwana Yusuf, Director, Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW and Lt.Gen. (Retd.) M. Nooruddin Khan, President of Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW as the Chair of the Closing Ceremony.



2nd Row from front: Prof. Dr. Farhana Helal Mehtab, Associate Dean, Daffodil International University, Lt. Gen (Retd.) M. Nooruddin Khan, President, Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW, Chief Guest of the Certificate Giving Ceremony Madam Justice Naima Haider, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Prof. Dr. S. M. Mahbub Ul Haque Majumder, Pro Vice Chancellor, Daffodil International University and Hon. Md. Amiruzzaman, Honorary Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Seychelles, Ms. Mrinalini Banerjee, Assistant Professor, GD Goenka University and Barrister Rizwana Yusuf, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh can be seen with the Summer School graduates.

Madam Justice Naima Haider applauded the organizers for holding the very first Summer School on Human Rights in Bangladesh. Such an event will stimulate deliberation and exchange of knowledge on human rights and its manifestation in so many areas such as women empowerment, children's rights, migration, climate change, labour law and workers' rights. She urged the organizers to continue this platform for creating awareness on humanity and human rights.



From Left to Right: Dr. Mahbubul Islam, Vice Chancellor, Daffodil International University and Barrister Rizwana Yusuf, Director Administration, Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW and Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh can be seen taking classes at the International Summers School on Human Rights.

The spontaneous participation of the participants in collaboration with the constructive sessions taken by the expert professionals greatly contributed towards making the International Summer School on human rights 2018 a valuable learning initiative.

Competitions for the Visually Impaired

Essay Competition

The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) organized an Essay Competition for the Visually Impaired on Saturday, December 2, 2017. This event further expresses the Institute's solidarity with the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The competition provided a platform for visually impaired persons to showcase their talents. H. E. Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, Honorable Minister for Cultural Affairs, Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh graced the ceremony as the Honorable Chief Guest.

H. E. Mr. Munir M. Merali, Resident Representative of the Aga Khan Foundation Mission, H. E. Ms. Masurai Masri, High Commissioner of the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, H. E. Ms. Aishath Shaan Shakir, Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives, H. E. Mr. Tran Van Khoa, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Hon. Mr. Md. Amiruzzaman, Consul for the Republic of Seychelles, Hon. Ms. Nasreen Fatema Awal, Vice President of the Consular Corps of Bangladesh



From Left to Right: Ms. Farzana Chowdhury, Managing Director & CEO of Green Delta Insurance Ltd., Hon. Ms. Nasreen Fatema Awal, Vice President of the Consular Corps of Bangladesh & Vice Chair for the Bangladesh Chapter of the South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF), Lt. Gen (Retd.) M. Nooruddin Khan, President, Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW, H. E. Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, Honorable Minister for Cultural Affairs, Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, Mr. Niaz Rahim, Chairman, Center for Zakat Management and H. E. Ms. Aishath Shaan Shakir, Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives can be seen at the Award Ceremony for the Visually Impaired.

& Vice Chair for the Bangladesh Chapter of the South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF), Mr. Andreas Hartmann, Counsellor and Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy, Prof. Dr. Abu Yousuf Md. Abdullah, Professor at IBA, University of Dhaka & Chairman, Northern University Bangladesh, Ms. Farzana Chowdhury, Managing Director & CEO of Green Delta Insurance Ltd., Mr. Michael Foley, Chief Executive Officer of Grameenphone Ltd., Ms. Shahnaz Karim, Director- Society at the British Council and Mr. Niaz Rahim, Chairman, Center for Zakat Management were present as Special Guests.



From Top: Participants at the Essay Competition for the Visually Impaired. The program was anchored by Mr. Khairul Azam, Program Coordinator, Institute's Program for the Visually Impaired and Ms. Seema Iqbal, Former Student and current Course Instructor at the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW.

Business Idea Competition

The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) organized a Business Idea Competition for the Visually Impaired on Monday, December 12, 2016. This program aimed to showcase the talents of visually impaired persons in light of the teachings of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) on establishing businesses and promoting self-dependency.

H.E. Mr. Iwan Wiranata-atmadja, Dean of Diplomatic Corps & Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Dhaka graced the ceremony as the Honorable Chief Guest.



From Left: Mr. Niaz Rahim, Chairman, Center for Zakat Management, Mr. Ahmadul Hoq, President, Bangladesh Association of Call Center & Outsourcing (BACCO), Mr. Hasan M. Mazumdar, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation, Mr. Mohamed A. A. Abu Gila, Second Secretary, Libyan Embassy, H. E. Mr. Omar Mohamed Ramadhan Al Bulushi, Representative of The Sultanate of Oman, H. E. Mr. Abdullah H.M. Al Mutairi, Ambassador, Embassy of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mr. Iwan Wiranata-atmadja, Dean of Diplomatic Corps & Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Lt. Gen (Retd.) M. Nooruddin Khan, President, Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW, H. E. Madam. Nur Ashikin Binti Mohd Taib, High Commissioner, High Commission of Malaysia, Mr. Darryl Lau, Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Singapore, Mr. Darryl Lau, Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Singapore and Mr. Jim Scarth, Deputy Director, the British Council can be seen at the Award Ceremony for the Business Idea Competition for the Visually Impaired.

H. E. Mr. Abdullah H.M. Al Mutairi, Ambassador, Embassy of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H. E. Mr. Omar Mohamed Ramadhan Al Bulushi, Representative of The Sultanate of Oman, H. E. Madam. Nur Ashikin Binti Mohd Taib, High Commissioner, High Commission of Malaysia, H. E. Mr. Darryl Lau, Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Singapore, Hon. Md. Amiruzzaman, Honorary Consul, Consulate of Republic of Seychelles and Secretary General of Consular Corps of Bangladesh, Mr. Mohamed A. A. Abu Gila, Second Secretary, Libyan Embassy, Mr. Jim Scarth, Deputy Director, the British Council, Mr. Hasan M. Mazumdar, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation, Mr. Ahmadul Hoq, President, Bangladesh Association of Call Center & Outsourcing (BACCO), Dr. Mohammad A. Momen, Professor, Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka and Mr. Niaz Rahim, Chairman, Center for Zakat Management were present as Special Guests.

The Chief Guest commended the Institute for giving a platform for visually impaired persons to demonstrate their talent and encouraged the students to strive hard to realize their potential. President of the Institute Lt. General (Retd) M. Nooruddin Khan urged invited influential persons to create opportunities for education, employment and empowerment to help disabled persons lead dignified lives.



Winners of the Business Idea Competition for the Visually Impaired with the Honorable Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Iwan Wiranata-atmadja, Dean of Diplomatic Corps & Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and other distinguished Special Guests.

Ms. Seema Iqbal presented the key note paper from the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad SAW. Titled “Nothing about us without us” the paper highlighted the professions where the visually impaired are capable of excelling such as telemarketing, interpretation services and tea tasting etc.

Mr. Md. Rasel Hasan presented a business idea on ICT and distance learning where he detailed on how high speed connectivity is creating new opportunities for taking and giving training for visually impaired persons on various subjects.

Both the competition were an opportunity for visually impaired persons to show case their skills, their capabilities and potential. Also discuss about the issues they face and barriers that need to be overcome. Speakers at the events deliberated on the importance of creating empowerment opportunities for persons with disability which in turn will enable them to lead a life with dignity.

Outcomes of Actions Taken

The direct beneficiaries of the Institute's activities are the visually impaired students in Dhaka currently enrolled in the Institute's Training Programs on Computer, PABX, Telesales, Call Centre and Spoken English Training. We may reiterate that the Institute is committed to upholding the rights of disabled persons and it believes training on employable skills can contribute towards this goal. Its training, legal support and advocacy programs have delivered the following results:

Created access to information: A total of **146 visually impaired students received training from the Institute during the period July 2016 to July 2018.** This training has enabled them to use computer and browse the internet, thereby opening doors for information and communication.

Created access to opportunity: the students are specially taught on how to browse for public and private sector job opportunities.

Empowered: Moreover the fact that the trainees know how to operate and use a computer has equipped them with an indispensable skill which is of great relevance for getting a job.

Awareness & Advocacy: There were 40 submissions for the Business Idea Competition for the visually impaired and 51 submissions for the essay competition. The competitions created platforms for visually impaired persons to generate awareness on their talents and capabilities.

The Roundtable on occasion of International Day for Persons with Disability was attended by 32 persons including 19 persons with disability. A total of 34 participants attended the International Summer School on Human Rights. The events informed the participants on human right as stated in the International Bill of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions, Citizen's Rights under the Laws of Bangladesh, and the special rights granted to persons with disability. Discrimination can arise in variety of work-related activities. These include access to employment, to particular occupations, promotions and to training and vocational guidance. The session participants were informed on what to expect and what may constitute discrimination in recruitment, remuneration, hours of work, performance assessment and advancement, training opportunities and occupational health, safety and office environment.