

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



**REMARKS BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
TEACH FOR BANGLADESH**

**LAUNCH EVENT
THE WESTIN HOTEL, DHAKA
MAY 16, 2013**

Ms. Wendy Kopp, CEO and Founder, Teach for All

Ms. Maimuna Ahmad, CEO and Founder, Teach for Bangladesh

Asalaam 'malaikum and good evening

People ...

In the end, life is about people ...

Many say Bangladesh has too many people ... they say people, too many people that is Bangladesh's biggest problem ... and they throw their hands up in despair.

I disagree ... I disagree completely.

I say people are Bangladesh's greatest asset.

I say the Bangladeshi people are the most energetic, dynamic, creative, generous, entrepreneurial, resilient people I know.

I say the challenge for Bangladesh is to ensure that its people, all of its people have ample, nutritious diets, strong, healthy bodies, and the best education and skills training. Bangladesh is a country in revolution ... great, powerful revolutions are underway that are changing the face of the nation.

An agricultural revolution will make Bangladesh, the most densely populated non-city state country in the world, food self-sufficient within a decade ... can you imagine that?! A health revolution has put Bangladesh among the few developing countries that are on the path to achieving crucial health-related Millennium Development Goals like slashing maternal mortality and slashing child under-five mortality. In addition, Bangladesh has reduced its fertility rate to near replacement level ... can you imagine that?!

Now, the next frontier is education ... education is the key to tapping and unleashing the wondrous character of the Bangladeshi people, whom I described a moment ago.

I give great credit to the teachers and government for launching an education revolution in Bangladesh.

The challenge of providing high quality education to scores of millions of Bangladeshi children is enormous ... too big for any single institution to achieve quickly. Civil society can and does play a key role in realizing this education revolution ... BRAC, Save the Children, Room to Read, BLAST, UNICEF and others ... America, too, is partnering with Bangladesh to promote this transformation of education by helping early elementary children learn to read..

... and others, like Teach for Bangladesh. I believe Teach for Bangladesh could contribute hugely to bringing good education to Bangladeshi kids.

I know well the concept and philosophy that underlie Teach for Bangladesh, as my son was a Teach for America volunteer ... he taught science for two years in an inner-city high school in St. Louis. I love the concept of Teach for America, Teach for All, Teach for Bangladesh ... I love the concept of people helping people, of people changing people. My son still has contact with many of those high school students whom he inspired, energized, enriched ... and so many credit him personally for giving them the confidence to achieve more as they pursued their education and their lives ... people helping people; people changing people ... this is a beautiful thing.

But the experience cuts both ways ... my son was forever changed by his engagement in this St. Louis high school ... he, too, developed new skills, new understandings of the realities of life, new self-confidence that altered forever the course of his life ... people helping people; people changing people ... this is a beautiful thing.

And now that concept is here in Bangladesh ... and this is a wonderful thing for Bangladesh, for bringing the hope of high quality education to Bangladeshi children.

Teach for Bangladesh starts small ... some candidate volunteers are here tonight ... they seek to be among the first Teach for Bangladesh volunteers ... these are the pioneers ... the brave, the hardy, the tough, who are clearing the way for legions of future volunteers to serve in schools across the nation to educate Bangladeshi children in the broadest sense. I believe these volunteers ... like my son ... will change lives as they inspire and build confidence among the

children. I believe, too, that these volunteers ... like my son ... will be forever impacted by this experience, forever changed ... people helping people; people changing people ... this is a beautiful thing.

I envision Teach for Bangladesh beginning with scores of volunteers, then hundreds, then thousands ... just like Wendy Kopp's experience in America some decades ago.

Maimuna Ahmad is the Wendy Kopp of Bangladesh. She brings vision, energy, determination to the quest to give every child in this great nation the gift of quality education. She already is building a strong team. Now she needs support ... support from the people of Bangladesh, support from the business community of Bangladesh. This support is critical to enabling Teach for Bangladesh to scale up its engagement across Bangladesh.

I want to help, too. We will soon launch an on-line portal that will enable Americans, especially Bangladeshi-Americans, to donate to Teach for Bangladesh, among other worthy causes. I think this will help strengthen and grow Teach for Bangladesh, but the key to Teach for Bangladesh's success is the support that it receives right here in Bangladesh from Bangladeshis themselves. The generous support of the Bangladeshi people, of Bangladeshi business is essential for Teach for Bangladesh's success.

I wish to conclude by applauding the spirit of the aspiring Teach for Bangladesh volunteers in this room. These individuals are top-performing graduates from Bangladeshi and American universities, and they are committing themselves to two years of teaching in the nation's most under-resourced schools. They have an incredible journey ahead of them, beginning with six weeks of intensive pre-service training. Each will teach more than 150 students a year, and they will engage school administration, staff and the broader community. If my son's experience is any guide, none of this will be easy ... in fact, the road ahead for these hardy volunteers will be tough, demanding, challenging, frustrating, but also exhilarating as the volunteers help young people, change young people, as the volunteers themselves are forever changed.

People helping people, people changing people ... it truly is a beautiful thing.

Thank you.

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**As prepared for delivery*