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PRESS RELEASE

BYLC YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT LAUNCHES IN DHAKA

DHAKA, APRIL 25 -- The three-day Youth Leadership Summit, with the theme Leading Bangladesh into the Future: A Journey of Exploration begins tomorrow (April 26) at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), the country's first leadership institute, will host the Summit which will bring together 450 youth delegates from Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet and 50 national and international speakers including experts from Harvard University and MIT for three days of knowledge sharing, learning and networking. The title sponsor of the Summit is the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka and the public sector partner is the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The Summit features a mix of plenaries and panels on entrepreneurship, leadership, global citizenship, education and career, climate change, women and leadership, politic and new media interspersed with teambuilding and reflection sessions. Leveraging on this platform, the delegates will explore new avenues, build lasting relationships, and understand existing challenges and opportunities for exercising leadership for Bangladesh's development.

BYLC Founder and President Ejaj Ahmad said, "Leadership is the vehicle that can bridge the gap between Bangladesh as it is today and Bangladesh as it ought to be. And this leadership has to come from the young generation. This is why we have organized this Summit – to celebrate the promise and potential of our youth, and instill in them values of leadership, reflection and active citizenship." Ahmad was addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city today (April 25).

From over 2100 applications, 450 college, madrassa and university students were competitively selected as delegates to the Summit.

BYLC Chairperson Barrister Manzoor Hasan said, "BYLC's biggest strength is its capacity to convene young people from very different socio-economic, educational and religious backgrounds and bring them to work together. This Summit will serve as a platform to unite the young generation and to encourage them to create a more inclusive society."

Director of City Year Boston Dr. Max Klau and Director of Youth Leadership Programs at BYLC Ivdad Ahmed Khan Mojlsh also spoke at the conference.

Later in the evening at Radio Foorti Director of the American Center Lauren Lovelace said, "The U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is pleased to support BYLC's innovative and timely initiative. Through this Summit, I hope more young people will be inspired to play an active role in society."

The gold sponsors of the Summit are Rahimafrooz and The Daily Star, and the silver sponsors are FBCCI, Adcomm, Al Arafah Islami Bank and Islami Bank. Robi Axiata Limited, DrikICT and Radio Foorti are the telecom, ICT and radio partners, respectively.

To reach out to a wider audience, BYLC will live webcast all the sessions at the Summit on www.bylc.org/summit2012 from April 26-28, 2012.

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