

# ***BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE***



# **SKILLS TALK**

NEWSLETTER

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# BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE THROUGH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

UCEP Bangladesh has been a glimmer of hope for thousands of underprivileged children and youth, transforming lives through education, skills training, and employment opportunities. For more than five decades, our mission has remained unwavering to empower the marginalized and enable them to break the cycle of poverty and deprivation.

As the Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, my vision is clear: to consolidate the organization's impact and expand its reach across the country. To achieve this, we must prioritize delivering quality training that aligns with the evolving demands of the labor market, ensuring our graduates are equipped to excel in both local



and international job markets. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in Bangladesh holds immense potential, and UCEP Bangladesh is committed to setting benchmarks of excellence. From fostering academic success in TVET programs to establishing a robust presence in the global employment arena, our aim is to position UCEP as a leader in skill development and workforce preparation. Financial sustainability is another cornerstone of our strategy. Diversifying revenue streams and forging partnerships with Government, industry, and international stakeholders will ensure our programs remain impactful and inclusive.

Our journey forward will focus on innovation, adaptability, and collaboration. By leveraging technology and embracing global best practices, we can make skills training more accessible and future-ready. Together, with the unwavering guidance of Association/BOG members and support of our dedicated staff, partners, and well-wishers, we can realize our shared vision of a skilled, empowered, and self-reliant Bangladesh.

UCEP remains steadfast in its commitment to creating a brighter future for all, one skill at a time. Let us continue to work together to uplift lives and build a nation where opportunities know no bounds.

“  
*There is no alternative to technical and vocational education and training to turn the country's vast workforce into skilled human resources*  
”

**Dr. Md. Abdul Karim**  
Executive Director, UCEP Bangladesh

## Annual General Meeting 2024 UCEP Association



UCEP Bangladesh, a non-governmental organization held its 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on December 21, 2024, at its head office. Chaired by its Chairperson Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, the meeting was attended by the members of the Board of Governors and the Association, Executive Director and the senior management team of UCEP. The Executive Director welcomed the participants and presented the report of the organization for the year 2024, and the organization's on-going activities and operations. Esteemed members of the Board and Associations provided some guidance for the further prospect of the organization and approved budget, annual plans. Association members expressed their satisfaction with the organization's achievements and financial position in 2024.

They appreciated the guidance of the Chairman and leadership of the Executive Director. They also conveyed their full support for the organization's future growth strategy. Election of new Board was held for members for next two years. Dr. Ubaidur Rob was elected as the Chairperson and Ms. Uzma Chowdhury, CPA was elected as the Vice Chairperson of the UCEP Board of Governors 2025-2026. Mr. Md. Ayub Khan, Deputy Director, Department of Social Services, Dhaka, was present during the election. Association members congratulated the new Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and other board members. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the donors, partners, beneficiaries, and stakeholders of UCEP Bangladesh.

## 15th Annual General Meeting UCEP Associates Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd.



The 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the UCEP Associates Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. (UAMCSL) was successfully conducted at the UCEP Bangladesh Head Office. The meeting, presided over by Mr. Jitendra Lal Bhowmik, President of UAMCSL, brought together Board and Association

members, as well as UAMCSL members, for a collaborative and productive event. Dr. Md. Alauddin, Chairperson of the UCEP Bangladesh Board of Governors, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Participants joined the meeting both in person and virtually, ensuring wide engagement from across the cooperative community.

The AGM provided a valuable platform for reflecting on UAMCSL's progress, addressing challenges, and discussed ambitious goals for the future. Discussions emphasized the cooperative's vital role in enhancing contributions to the UCEP community and fostering collaborative growth. This milestone event underscored UAMCSL's commitment to empowering its members and advancing its mission to create a positive and sustainable impact.



## Celebrating the Legacy of Lindsay Allan Cheyne



UCEP Bangladesh proudly celebrated the 93rd birth anniversary of its visionary founder, Lindsay Allan Cheyne, whose enduring legacy continues to inspire and transform lives. The event, held with great enthusiasm, paid tribute to his unwavering commitment to education, empowerment, and social change. A highlight of the ceremony was the special Handwriting Excellence Award, recognizing the outstanding handwriting skills of our dedicated teachers and talented students. This unique initiative celebrated precision, creativity, and the importance of attention to detail qualities that reflect the spirit of UCEP's comprehensive approach to education.

The joyous occasion brought together students, teachers, and staff to honor the values of excellence, commitment, and youth empowerment that Mr. Cheyne envisioned. As we look ahead, UCEP Bangladesh remains steadfast in its mission to continue his legacy, fostering a brighter future for underserved communities across the nation.

## UCEP Bangladesh Pays Tribute to Founder Lindsay Allan Cheyne on 38th Death Anniversary



On September 15, 2024, UCEP Bangladesh solemnly commemorated the 38th death anniversary of its visionary founder, Lindsay Allan Cheyne. The event was held at Dhaka Christian Cemetery, where UCEP Board members, alumni, officials, and students gathered to pay heartfelt tributes. Flower garlands were offered, and reflections were shared on his remarkable contributions to education and social empowerment.

The ceremony was graced by esteemed guests, including Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mazid, Member of UCEP's Board of Governors, and Mr. Neaz Ahmed, Honorary Consul of New Zealand, as the special guest. Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, chaired the event, which was further enriched by the presence of Ms. Parveen Mahmud, FCA, former Chairperson of UCEP's Board of Governors, as the chief guest. The occasion served as a poignant reminder of Mr. Cheyne's extraordinary legacy, inspiring UCEP to carry forward his mission of transforming lives through education and empowerment.

## UCEP Bangladesh Honors Excellence with Best Performance Award 2024



UCEP Bangladesh celebrated the remarkable achievements of its teachers and institutions at the Best Performance Award 2024 ceremony. The event was graced by Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairperson of the UCEP Board of Governors, as the Chief Guest, and chaired by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh. The ceremony was further enriched by the presence of Dr. Muhammad Abdul Mazid, an esteemed board member, along with UCEP officials. Awards were handed over to the deserving recipients, honoring their exceptional dedication and contributions to advancing education

and skills development. The memorable occasion highlighted UCEP's commitment to recognizing and encouraging excellence within its educational community. UCEP Bangladesh remains steadfast in its mission to empower individuals and build a brighter future through quality education and skills training.

## Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh visited UCEP Bangladesh's Chattogram Region



H.E. Mr. IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, visited UCEP Bangladesh's Chattogram Region on November 7, emphasizing Japan-Bangladesh collaboration in technical and vocational education (TVET). He explored the AK Khan UCEP TVET Institute, Technical School, and the upcoming TVET Complex, gaining insights into UCEP's initiatives. Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP, shared updates on skills training programs and plans to introduce caregiving courses with JICA, addressing Japan's workforce needs. Ambassador Kiminori reaffirmed Japan's support, highlighting the potential for Bangladeshi caregivers in Japan. This visit strengthens ties to foster a globally competitive skilled workforce.

## Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment Visited UCEP Bangladesh



UCEP Bangladesh had the honor of hosting Mr. A.H.M. Shafiquzzaman, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, at Dhaka North Region. The visit, led by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, included senior management and project directors of the TBIP and Prottoy projects. During the visit, Mr. Shafiquzzaman engaged in a productive meeting with UCEP SMT to discuss ongoing initiatives and future plans aimed at empowering marginalized communities through skills training and employment. The visit underscores the strong collaboration between UCEP Bangladesh and the Ministry of Labour and Employment in driving sustainable development through technical and vocational education.

## DFAT & GAC Team visit at UCEP Rajshahi and Rangpur Region



UCEP Bangladesh hosted delegations from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) in its Rajshahi and Rangpur regions from October 1 to 3, 2024. The visits underscored a shared commitment to inclusive skills training and increasing female participation in technical trades, particularly in Solar Maintenance and Operation (SMO).

Led by senior representatives, including Mr. Syed Haider from DFAT and Mr. Joe McIntosh from GAC, the delegations toured classrooms, engaged with students, and held discussions with UCEP staff and industry partners to strengthen collaboration and boost employment opportunities for graduates. Mr. McIntosh commended UCEP's dedication to human resource development, highlighting the organization's pivotal role in fostering an inclusive and skilled workforce, ensuring trainees are empowered to succeed in a rapidly evolving job market.



## The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



UCEP Bangladesh successfully organized a significant event commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, coupled with the Job Fair 2024.

The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Md. Rezaul Maksud Jahedi, Secretary, Ministry of Youth & Sports as the chief guest and Mr. Joe McIntosh, First Secretary, Development (Education and Skills), High Commission of Canada, Dhaka, as the guest of honour, and was chaired by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh. The discussions underscored the vital importance of eliminating violence against women and fostering empowerment through education and employment. The program concluded with an impressive cultural performance by UCEP students, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

## Annual Program Review Meeting, UIST



UCEP Bangladesh held its “Annual Program Review Meeting 2024” on November 1 at the Sea Uttara Conference Room, Cox’s Bazar. Hosted by UIST, the event gathered the Senior Management Team, the Deputy Director of Field Operations and acting Principal of UIST, and 34 staff members.

The meeting featured discussions on achievements, challenges, and future goals, with departmental presentations and guidance from senior leaders. Executive Director Dr. Md. Abdul Karim emphasized student engagement, infrastructure upgrades, and industry collaboration. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, leaving participants motivated to achieve UIST’s strategic goals.

## UCEP Bangladesh Inaugurated “Women’s Corner” at Head Office to Foster a Female-Friendly Working Environment



UCEP Bangladesh has taken a significant step toward promoting a supportive and inclusive workplace by establishing a dedicated "Women's Corner" at its Head Office. This initiative aims to ensure a female-friendly working environment, prioritizing the comfort and well-being of female staff.

The “Women’s Corner” was officially inaugurated by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, in the presence of Directors, Deputy Directors, and Managers. This milestone reflects UCEP Bangladesh's commitment to empowering women in the workplace and fostering a supportive

environment where they can thrive. The Women’s Corner has been particularly beneficial for female employees, offering a space for rest and relaxation, especially for pregnant staff members who require additional care and comfort during working hours. UCEP Bangladesh continues to lead by example in creating an inclusive and supportive organizational culture, setting a benchmark for others to follow. This initiative underscores the organization's dedication to the well-being of its employees, enabling them to perform at their best while feeling valued and supported.

## Resource Mobilization

Between September and December 2024, the Resource Mobilization department achieved significant milestones that boosted the organization engagement to its strategic objectives. The team focused on building strategic consortiums, forging impactful collaborations, and securing new projects. In this period, key partnerships have been established with Save the Children for the BMZ project, International Rescue Committee (IRC) for the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) project, Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: Economic Development & Livelihoods, and BRAC for USAID's Bangladesh Communities for Gender Equality (CGE) Activity program. These collaborations highlight the department's ability to align with global development priorities and drive impactful initiatives. Two significant CSR projects have been approved: the 'Aponjon' MetLife Foundation–UCEP Caregiving

Youth Project, funded by the MetLife Foundation, and another project: Child Labor in Subcontracted Ready-Made Garment Supply Chains in Bangladesh, funded by GoodWeave International, USA. During this period, UCEP became a new member of the "Citizen's Platform for SDGs" and actively participated in the "Citizen Participation in the VNR Preparation Process" workshop, organized by the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission and The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Additionally, UCEP took a co-leadership role in the Youth thematic segment of the VNR reporting. Through strategic planning, effective communication, and dedicated efforts, the Resource Mobilization department set a strong foundation for future growth and reaffirmed its commitment to creating lasting, meaningful impact.



## Stress Management & Total Fitness Session by Quantum Foundation

On 5th November 2024, a dynamic "Stress Management & Total Fitness Session" was successfully organized by HRD&M Unit of UCEP Bangladesh in collaboration with the Quantum Foundation. This session aimed to enhance the mental well-being and overall fitness of participants, equipping them with practical tools to manage stress in their personal and professional lives. The program encompassed a variety of engaging activities, including guided meditation, breathing exercises, and interactive discussions on identifying and addressing stress triggers. The facilitators from Quantum Foundation brought their expertise to deliver actionable strategies for maintaining physical and mental balance. The session proved to be an impactful initiative, reinforcing UCEP Bangladesh's commitment to prioritizing employees' well-being. Such programs not only contribute to individual growth but also enhance organizational efficiency by fostering a motivated and stress-free workforce.

## UIST Students Lead the Charge in Campus Cleanliness Drive 2024

On November 5, 2024, second-semester students from the Civil Department at UCEP Institute of Science and Technology (UIST), Dhaka, organized a Campus Cleanliness Drive, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a hygienic environment. Armed with placards promoting cleanliness awareness, students cleaned campus grounds, classrooms, and the adjacent roads. Faculty members Nazmul Hasan and Md. Al Nayeem actively participated, encouraging students throughout the event. This initiative reflected UIST's commitment to instilling values of environmental consciousness in its students while fostering teamwork and community responsibility.



## UCEP Dhaka North Region hosted Teachers' Training Workshop

UCEP Dhaka North Region successfully hosted the Teachers' Training Workshop 2024 on December 13, 2024. The event was honored by the presence of Mr. Md. Abdul Majid, District Education Officer, Dhaka, as the Chief Guest. Additionally, Thana Secondary Education Officers from Mohammadpur, Pallabi, Mirpur, Lalbagh, Badda, and Ramna attended as special guests. The workshop was presided over by Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh.

Around 100 instructors from the Dhaka North Region participated in this training, which aimed to strengthen teachers' professional competencies. The workshop focused on modern teaching methodologies and effective classroom management techniques, equipping instructors with practical tools to enhance the quality of education. Sessions were conducted by the Thana Secondary Education Officers (TSEOs), addressing critical topics related to the education system and institutional management. In closing, Dr. Md. Abdul Karim expressed his gratitude to the teachers and organizers for their active participation and dedication, which played a crucial role in making the Teachers' Training Workshop a success.

## Sumaiya Akter from Mirpur TS Represents Bangladesh Scouts in Prestigious South Korea Program



Sumaiya Akter, a talented student from Mirpur Technical School, has been proudly nominated by Bangladesh Scouts to participate in an esteemed two-week program in South Korea. This remarkable opportunity will allow Sumaiya to gain invaluable experiences, enhance her skills, and foster international collaboration. The program promises to be a transformative experience for her, contributing to both her personal growth and professional development. The nomination reflects her dedication and hard work, and she is set to represent Bangladesh on this prestigious international platform.

## Consultation Meeting with Local Potential Employers in Rajshahi Region

On 19 December 2024, a consultation meeting under the DFAT Phase-II project was held to foster collaboration between industries and TVET institutes. Attended by representatives from over a dozen formal and informal industries, the event focused on exploring job market opportunities, supporting on-the-job training, and promoting employment for UCEP trainees, particularly persons with disabilities (PWD) and minority groups. S. M. Mahfuzur Rahman, Assistant Director of BRTA, Pirojpur & Jhalokathi, made a significant contribution by discussing driving license procedures and stakeholder expectations for skilled trainees.

## UCEP Empowers Transgender Individuals Through Skills Training

Transgender inclusion in UCEP's skills training programs has significantly enhanced their skills development and employment opportunities. 22 transgenders enrolled in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes under UCEP Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Khulna, and Sylhet regions. They successfully completed training courses in fields such as Cooking & Baking, Sewing Machine Operation, Caregiving, and Computer Operation. 12 graduates have secured employment in various industries and organizations, including Bandhu Social Welfare, TransEnd, Hotel Radisson Blu, Swapno Shopping Mall, and Premco Shesan.

## UCEP Khulna Region organized a handwriting competition

On September 17, 2024, UCEP Khulna Region organized a handwriting competition, bringing together instructors and students to celebrate the art of handwriting and its importance in education and personal development. Three outstanding performers were recognized, with UCEP Khulna Region securing three awards: two in the teachers' category and one in the students' category. Mr. Dilip Kumar Mallik, Instructor of Foundational Skills, won the first prize, and Mr. Moshir Rahman, Instructor of Technical Skills, secured the second prize. In the students' category, Lamiya Sultana, our students of Class IX from Wazed Ali Technical School, earned the second prize. The awards, including certificates and crests, were distributed during a ceremony attended by Dr. Md. Alaaddin, Chairman of the UCEP Board of Governors, Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, and other esteemed guests. The event underscored the importance of handwriting as a vital skill that enhances cognitive development, communication, and overall personality.



## Decent Employment Programme

### Major achievements



9,217 TVET completers (out of 10,681) secured jobs, reflecting an impressive placement rate of 86%.

3,100 employable female TVET completers secured jobs (Out of 3,667), resulting in a placement rate of 84%.

292 PWDs (407 skills training completers) got jobs, resulting in a % of placement rate of 71%.

402 ethnic & minorities completed skills training, out of which 343 are placed in jobs (85%).

1,756 youths (1071 female) received Entrepreneurship Development Training.

11183 trainees Received career counseling (female 4,053) for jobs and retention in jobs.

Provided career guidance to 13,915 youths (female: 4,719) to choose their trades.

## AKKUPI Day Celebration

On September 30th, 2024, AK Khan UCEP Polytechnic Institute (AKKUPI) DAY was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the AKKUPI Robotics & Code Club. This event marked the first 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) related competition in the polytechnic sector in Chittagong. The event saw an impressive participation of 40 teams, all competing in a series of captivating events designed to showcase their technical ability and innovative thinkings. The competitions included Robo Soccer, where robots demonstrated their athletic skills; the Line Follower Robot challenge, testing precision and programming excellence; and Project Showcasing, where students presented their groundbreaking projects to an eager audience.

The day-long event was covered extensively by various TV and print media outlets, highlighting the excitement and significance of the occasion. The atmosphere was electric, filled with the sounds of whirring robots, enthusiastic cheers, and discussions.

During the prize distribution ceremony, certificates were awarded to the champion and runner-up teams in each event, celebrating their hard work, creativity, and technical expertise. This event not only provided a platform for students to demonstrate their skills but also inspired many to pursue their passions in robotics and coding.

## Training Session on Gender Equality, SRHR, Psychosocial Counselling, and Safeguarding

A two-day training session on Gender Equality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Psychosocial Counselling, and Safeguarding was held at UCEP Chattogram Region, Ambagan, from December 22 to 23, 2024. The session was attended by 25 participants, key personnel of UCEP Chattogram Region, including Regional Manager, Head of Technical Schools and Head of TVET Institutes, and Gender Focal Persons from technical schools and TVETs. The training was enriched with the presence of Eng. Joy Prokash Barua, Deputy Director, Program and Innovation, and Zannatul Ferdous, Gender Specialist of GAC Project, who provided expert insights and facilitated interactive discussions.

# Story of Change



## **PAIRA JANNAT: A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT**

Paira Jannat, a courageous young woman from Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, has shown extraordinary determination in overcoming challenges to build a promising future. As the eldest in her family, she bore the responsibility of securing a brighter future for her loved ones. With support from the USAID BIJOYEE Project, implemented by UCEP Bangladesh-Chattogram Region, Paira turned obstacles into opportunities.

Paira faced societal and familial pressures to succeed but struggled with confidence and workplace skills. Uncertain about her career prospects after completing her studies, she found hope in the USAID BIJOYEE soft skills training program. The program offered a comprehensive curriculum focusing on effective communication, decision-making, self-awareness, emotional intelligence, stress management, self-motivation, gender equality, and social inclusiveness. These lessons transformed Paira's outlook and abilities. She gained confidence, self-awareness, and the ability to communicate effectively. Improved skills enhanced her professional and interpersonal interactions, while a strong emphasis on gender equality and social inclusiveness inspired her to advocate for fairness in her community. Armed with newfound confidence, Paira achieved a significant milestone: her first job as a trainer with Risda Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar. This role strengthens her family's financial stability and brings her closer to achieving her long-term goals. Paira's journey highlights the transformative impact of education and empowerment initiatives, showcasing the potential for young individuals to overcome challenges and drive positive change in their lives and communities.



## **FROM HARDSHIP TO HOPE: SAIFUL ISLAM'S INSPIRING JOURNEY**

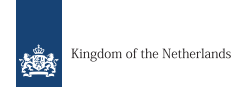
Saiful Islam grew up in a humble home in Ramnarayan village, Noakhali, where his father, a retired army soldier, struggled to support six children on a meager pension. The family lived in Meghna Ghat, Narayanganj, where dreams of a better future seemed distant.

Determined to break free from poverty, Saiful's father enrolled him at UCEP Jatrabari Technical School, following advice from relatives. This decision became a turning point. Saiful thrived, completing his JSC and later joining the Electrical trade program in 2010. His dedication and resilience shone through as he mastered technical skills and grew in confidence. Upon graduation, UCEP's job placement team secured him employment, marking the start of his transformation. For five years, Saiful worked tirelessly, supporting his family while dreaming of greater opportunities. That dream took flight when, with the help of relatives and UCEP, he secured a work visa for Croatia. Today, Saiful works as an electrician in Croatia, earning BDT 18,000 monthly. His financial support has eased his family's burdens, and his parents brim with pride. Saiful's journey is a testament to the power of opportunity and determination, proving that even the humblest beginnings can lead to extraordinary success.





THANKS TO THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND  
**WELL-WISHERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT**





**HELP THE  
UNDERPRIVILEGED  
CHILDREN & YOUTH**

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