



newsletter september 2019

sangjog

human energy®







welcome message

We're already three quarters into what has been a successful year at Chevron Bangladesh, and the team remains focused on sustaining our record of safe, reliable and efficient production operations to support meeting Bangladesh's energy needs and driving the country's economic growth.

We also place emphasis on our social investment contributions to our local communities – whether it's delivering quality, affordable healthcare via the clinics we support, by providing scholarships to financially disadvantaged students and giving previously out-of-school children a second chance at education, or by improving community livelihoods through our primary economic development program, the Bangladesh Partnership Initiative. All of our social investment initiatives are aligned with pursuit of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. It's these initiatives that this latest issue of Sangjog focuses on.

Our corporate social responsibility programs have made excellent progress this year, and I have enjoyed participating in several events held to mark specific project milestones. One such event was a visit to an Early Primary Education center in Sylhet under our SHIKHON project with Save the Children. Meeting and interacting with some of the children was truly a special experience. In this edition of Sangjog, you'll also see articles about participants from our Uttoron and Jibika programs, the latter of which just kicked off its 2nd phase.

Another exciting program that Chevron is very proud to be associated with is the "Asian University for Women Science Summer School Powered by Chevron" – a five-week summer school residency to stimulate the interest of young women to pursue higher education and careers in STEM-related disciplines. You can learn more about it in this issue.

We are focused on continuing to deliver positive impact from our social investment programs. Watch this space!

Neil Menzies
President, Chevron Bangladesh



From left to right: Dr. Dave Dowland, Registrar, A UW; Ismail H. Chowdhury, Director, Corporate Affairs, Chevron Bangladesh; Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Minister of Information, Government of Bangladesh; Shorna Biswas, one of the two recipients of the "Emerging Woman Leader in STEM" award; Mrs. Waseka Ayesha Khan, Member of Parliament, Chattogram

sparking the minds of young female scientists across bangladesh: closing ceremony of the A UW math & science summer school

The Asian University for Women (A UW) has taken strides this summer to empower young women in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The A UW Math & Science Summer School, powered by Chevron, selected 61 of the brightest female high school students across Bangladesh to participate in an intensive five-week program focused on STEM subjects. The summer program equipped students with the competence and skills necessary to excel in STEM-oriented further studies and careers.

The A UW Math & Science Summer School concluded with a Closing Ceremony at the Asian University for Women campus in Chittagong, Bangladesh on August 8, 2019. Special guests of the event included Mr. Ismail Chowdhury, Director of Corporate Affairs of Chevron Bangladesh and Mrs. Waseka Ayesha Khan, Member of Parliament, Chattogram, Bangladesh. Mr. Chowdhury commended the initiative and expressed his pleasure with the collaboration between A UW and Chevron. Mrs. Khan believes programs such as this one will actively encourage young Bangladeshi women to engage in STEM education.

The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister of Information of the Government of Bangladesh, Dr Hasan Mahmud, addressed the audience, "A UW brings a source of pride for Bangladesh and Chittagong. A UW is a world-class university by all standards and A UW doesn't only educate women; it empowers women. I encourage you all not just to dream big, but to combine your dreams with your efforts to reach your goals." Special Guest, Mr. Ismail Chowdhury said, "The A UW Math & Science Summer School Powered by Chevron stands out for two reasons: firstly, it represents Chevron's efforts to empower Bangladeshi girls, and secondly, it provides STEM education to those who are hungry for success in their lives."

All students were awarded a Certificate of Merit in recognition of completing the program. Family and friends of the students attended the Closing Ceremony. Two students, Tasnia Raisa Choudhury and Shorna Biswas, received the Emerging Woman Leader in STEM Award for their exemplary academic performance and leadership skills.

Tasnia said, “Winning this award means a lot to me because it has made me believe in myself... the diversity here has helped me break out of my shell. This recognition has enhanced my [personal] confidence and self-esteem.” Shorna Biswas said, “I will pursue a PhD one day, and this program has increased my love for science while giving me a network of mentors to guide me.”

“Students of this program are more prepared for university and further qualified for the modern workforce,” said Geoff McConohy, Guest Faculty of the AUW Math & Science Summer School and PhD scholar at Stanford University. “By supporting our students with real-world examples, we can better prepare them for what they will face in the workforce in STEM pathways.”

“It was great how students from diverse backgrounds came together at AUW to pursue a shared interest in math and science. They were enthusiastic and eager to learn from day 1. Over five weeks, the students were able to improve their problem-solving skills, work on their English, and apply their creativity to hands-on projects. They became more accustomed to ‘figuring things out’ opposed to being told what to do,” said Ranbel Sun, Guest Faculty and Physics Instructor from Phillips Academy, Andover in the U.S.

“The Math & Science Summer School students are bright, capable, and energetic learners who will undoubtedly go on to become leaders in their requisite fields. Over the course of this program, we have seen these students bloom and flourish by challenging themselves – and each other – to grow to their highest potential. I am so pleased by their progress and am eager to see what the future holds for each of them,” says Ethan Goldbach, SAT Instructor.

The curriculum of the Math and Science Summer School focused on Physics, Mathematics, and Bioinformatics. These courses were taught by a cohort of international and local faculty with academic backgrounds from Stanford, MIT, Notre Dame, and the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia. A group of visiting undergraduate students helped with peer tutoring and organized many extracurricular activities. The program was also designed to include prominent international scientists and mathematicians who volunteered to provide remote lectures:

The AUW Math & Science Summer School allowed students to delve deeply into the world of STEM through blended hands-on activities and lectures. Students walk away from this program with a broader understanding of future careers, coupled with enhanced critical thinking and problem-solving.





Seated from left: Anna Minj, Director, Community Empowerment, Gender Justice & Diversity, Integrated Development Programme, BRAC; A. Matiul Islam Nowshad, CMgr, Senior Director, Operations and Strategic Initiatives, BRAC; Muhammed Ahsanul Jabbar, Additional Secretary, Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Alexander Yelland, General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Chevron Asia South; and Ismail Chowdhury, Director, Corporate Affairs, Chevron Bangladesh.

launching jibika phase ii: a vision towards sustainable village cooperatives

A launch ceremony for phase II of the Jibika project, a collaboration between BRAC and Chevron, was held today in Dhaka. Various representatives from the Government of Bangladesh, BRAC, Chevron, IDEA and Village Development Organizations (VDOs) were in attendance.

Muhammed Ahsanul Jabbar, Additional Secretary, Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources, Government of Bangladesh attended as chief guest. Also present were Ismail Chowdhury, Director, Corporate Affairs, Chevron Bangladesh; Alexander Yelland, General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Chevron Asia South; and Anna Minj, Director, Community Empowerment, Gender Justice & Diversity, Integrated Development Programme, BRAC. Matiul Islam Nowshad, CMgr, Senior Director, Operations and Strategic Initiatives, BRAC chaired the event.

The program highlighted the achievements of Jibika Phase I, followed by an outline of Phase II's vision and objectives to strengthen the governance of the 110 VDOs, developed under this project. Mr. Jabbar lauded the partnership between BRAC, the world's largest development organization, and Chevron, Bangladesh's largest international oil company, in bolstering the socio-economic development of vulnerable communities residing near Chevron-operated gas fields in Greater Sylhet.

Mr. Chowdhury said Chevron's Corporate Social Responsibility programs impact thousands of lives in north-east Bangladesh. Jibika, the first project under the Chevron Bangladesh Partnership Initiative, is an example of a successful collaboration between BRAC and Chevron that has been supporting VDOs and promoting entrepreneurship amongst its members in the Sylhet, Moulavibazar and Habiganj districts.

Mr. Yelland acknowledged the Department of Cooperatives for their efforts in making a positive and sustainable change in the communities where Chevron operates. He also mentioned that Chevron's social investment programs primarily focus on economic, development, health and education, thereby supporting several Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by the UN.

Ms. Minj, conveying her wishes for the lasting success of Phase II, congratulated all 110 VDOs for their efforts in leading the organizations towards sustainability.

The Jibika project was designed to promote entrepreneurship for sustainable income growth of the poor and marginalized farming households around Chevron-operated gas field areas in Greater Sylhet. Phase I of the project successfully established 110 Village Development Organizations, which later achieved registration from the Department of Cooperatives. Starting with negligible capital, each VDO now has an average operating capital of 6 lacs. BRAC and its implementing partner IDEA have also facilitated intensive trainings on leadership, fund management, cattle and vegetable rearing, etc. for the communities. From the year 2015-2019, about 20,000 people in the community have benefited from the Jibika project. Following the successful completion of phase I, phase II of the project is designed to further strengthen the governance and management of the Jibika cooperatives and help them achieve long term sustainability by 2022.



shikhon: neil menzies pays a visit

In addition to supplying reliable, affordable energy for Bangladesh, we also support the country's progress on other United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals through our social investment programs, particularly in the areas of education, health and economic development.

One of the social investment programs we support is the SHIKHON project, which is a collaboration between Chevron and Save The Children to provide accelerated, non-formal primary school education to 1,800 previously out-of-school children (ages 5-7) from 46 villages near Chevron's areas of operation. In July, Chevron Bangladesh President Neil Menzies had the opportunity to witness teachers' training being conducted in Sylhet, during which Grade-I students shared an enthusiastic demonstration of their class activities.





a ray of light for tanjida

Tanjida Rahman, an eight-year-old girl residing in the village of Chargong (in Habiganj district, near Chevron's Bibiyana Gas Plant) has been vision-impaired from birth. Her father, Nazrul Islam currently lives in the U.A.E. - amongst the many Non-Resident Bangladeshis earning a living overseas to support their families. The onus of taking care of the family is solely on Tanjida's mother, Diti, who is also vision-impaired. In the interest of convenience and taking into consideration her daughter's safety and security, she enrolled Tanjida in a community school nearby. Unfortunately, mismanagement and inadequate community support led to the school shutting its doors in 2018. The students of that community school were all admitted to a primary school near Chargong. However, since the school did not have adequate support facilities to accommodate a student in Tanjida's condition, she was left out.

This predicament left Tanjida's mother extremely worried about her daughter's future. The launch of a SHIKHON school near their home was a stroke of good fortune. It seemed tailor-made for Tanjida, and that's where she was immediately enrolled. However, it was not smooth sailing from the beginning. During the early days, Tanjida's attendance was irregular and she kept herself isolated from the rest of her classmates. The transformation was gradual - she made friends, and the teacher was nurturing and caring, taking extra care and time to ensure Tanjida understood her lessons. Tanjida was never made to feel like a burden. Now she effortlessly recites the rhymes and songs she learns in class. Says her mother, "I felt completely helpless after community school shut down. But the SHIKHON school entered our lives as a beacon of light and hope. Now when hear Tanjida's voice, joyfully singing songs and rhymes, I'm the happiest person in the whole world."

Tanjida is one of 1,800 marginalized, previously out-of-school children aged 5-7 studying in 60 Early Primary Education (EPE) center or one-room schools. Under this Chevron-supported initiative implemented by Save the Children, students will complete a pre-primary component and Grades I and II. They will then be equipped to Bangladesh's national curriculum to continue their learning journey.



fahima's tale

Fahima Begum
Machinist
TMSS Habiganj
Shastipur Village,
Dighalbak Union,
Nabiganj Upazila,
Habiganj District

**LED Machine Operator
Habiganj Industrial Park
(PRAN-RFL Group)**

Fahima (of Shastipur Village under Habiganj District, near Chevron's Bibiyana Gas Plant) lost her father when she was just a little girl. In a family of seven, Fahima is the middle child, with two older brothers currently earning. As long as she can remember, her mother has always been ill, and it was all her siblings who looked after each other and the necessities of the household. Fahima is a History honours student at Moulavibazar Government College. She has always stayed home, occasionally tutoring young school children, but the pay was inadequate and sporadic at best. She was looking for better work opportunities when she came across the training initiative under Uttoron project. After completing her three-month training as a machinist at the TMSS Habiganj training center, Fahima was snapped up by the PRAN-RFL Group, a large industrial conglomerate in Bangladesh. Rather than merely staying home, she now feels like a productive member of the household as she works and earns to support her family.

"Now I can finally contribute to my mother's healthcare expenses, which I've wanted to do for a long time. I am grateful to Chevron and Swisscontact for this landmark initiative and paving a pathway for unemployed people like me. Everyone's good wishes and prayers have been overwhelming. I'm looking forward to finishing up my undergraduate degree soon and hope to progress up the career ladder."



Fahima is one of nearly 1,450 youths who have completed skills training under Uttoron - a three-year skills development project funded by Chevron under its Bangladesh Partnership Initiative (BPI). 72% of these graduates (of whom 14% are female) are now employed, earning, on average, a monthly income of over \$100. For the training component, Uttoron has a unique partnership with the Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) - funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB), Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC) and the Government of Bangladesh and implemented by the Ministry of Finance. Implemented in the three north-eastern districts of Sylhet, Habiganj and Moulavibazar, the program aimed to train 1,400 youths in light engineering and construction and place over 900 graduates in gainful employment. Motivational trainings and awareness campaigns are additional components of this program.



Zishrat Hasan, from Cumilla, Bangladesh, is an Asian University for Women (AUW) alumna from Class of 2013 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Environmental Sciences. She was in the first graduating cohort of AUW. Upon graduating from AUW in 2013, Zishrat joined Chevron Bangladesh as an Environmental Specialist in the Health, Environment and Safety (HES) department. Her primary responsibility at the organization is to lead environmental, social and health impact assessment studies for various projects. Zishrat is a young professional who has dedicated her career to environmental management and community-based sustainable projects where environment, technology and economy integrate.



I am glad to work in a company that has education as a core focus of its corporate social responsibility initiatives. I am proud of Chevron's partnership with AUW in this exciting Summer Science School, which will actively encourage young Bangladeshi women to engage in STEM education for their future chosen paths.

chevron voices

zishrat hasan: environmental specialist

During her time at AUW, Zishrat was active in various clubs such as the Environmentalists in Action (EnAct Club), where she worked with her team members to promote environmental awareness and create opportunities for conservation for the AUW community. Zishrat believes that AUW is an opportunity hub. She explains that because of her experiences at AUW, she is a step ahead in her career – she understands the value of diversity and inclusion. Reflecting on her time at AUW, Zishrat states, “The best part of AUW is our faculty who support and mentor us.”

Zishrat believes the AUW Science Summer School will help young women to develop their skills that will apply to higher education, both within Bangladesh and abroad because of the international faculty and tailored course curriculum. In explaining the benefit of studying at AUW, she says,

“Students will get to experience a diverse learning environment that encourages leadership development; which will ultimately enable to create and facilitate networking opportunities”.

Since graduating from AUW, Zishrat advocates for greater inclusion of women in sciences. She explains that “There may be many females who study science, but this isn't necessarily reflected in the representation of females in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)-based industries and jobs.” She believes that Bangladesh needs more females in STEM to create a balanced representation in decision-making, which will eventually ensure providing solutions that are fit for all. Zishrat believes that the value of studying STEM subjects is to foster critical thinking and analysis for solving various problems.

Zishrat is an exemplary example of an AUW alumna who is committed to raising awareness and taking action for conserving the environment, as well as an avid supporter of women in STEM careers. Zishrat summarizes her thoughts and states, “I am glad to work in a company that has education as a core focus of its corporate social responsibility initiatives. I am proud of Chevron's partnership with AUW in this exciting Summer Science School, which will actively encourage young Bangladeshi women to engage in STEM education for their future chosen paths.”

The recently-concluded AUW Math & Science Summer School Powered by Chevron was a five-week residential program, in which 61 female high-school students took part from across Bangladesh.



LV

LV

bangladesh.chevron.com

