

Speech of Welcome and Introduction
on inaugural session of the Seminar on
“Approaches to Quality Needs in Higher Education: Bangladesh Perspective”
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Hon’ble Chief Guest Prof Dr Alauddin Ahmed Adviser to hon’ble Prime Minister, Special Guest Prof Nazrul Islam, Chairman University Grants Commission, Chair of this Session Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Professionals, Respected VCs, Pro VCs, faculties of different universities Distinguished Guests & Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Assalamualaikum and Good morning and welcome you to the seminar on “Approaches for quality needs in Higher Education: Bangladesh Perspective” organized by Bangladesh University of Professionals. It is both an honor and a privilege to stand before you today and welcome you to this learned community

2. We are honored this morning by the presence of the hon’ble Adviser for (Education, Social Development & Political Affairs) Prof Dr Alaudin Ahmed, former VC of Jahangirnagar University. We thank you for kindly being the chief guest at this session. We fully appreciate you finding the time to be with us despite your tight schedule. As adviser to Prime Minister on education affairs, your presence underscores the seriousness for enhancing quality assurance of higher education. I also thank the Chairman University Grants Commission (UGC) for his kind presence this morning to officiate this program as special guest. On behalf of BUP I warmly welcome VCs & Pro VCs, Deans & faculties of different universities, experts & all other distinguished participants for finding time to be with us today. My precious thanks to all the participants who traveled far and near to share experience and to engage with each other. I truly believe the engagement of faculties from different universities attending today will certainly make this seminar fruitful and productive.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. At the beginning of this month UGC & British Council jointly organized a seminar on “Quality assurance and enhancement higher education: Experience in the UK and possible implications for Bangladesh” at Dhaka. Some of us, who are present here participated that seminar. Now we are here in Mirpur, Dhaka on the same platform again of coming together in a seminar of the mind for quality needs in higher education.

4. But certainly BUP stands out on its own, as for the first time we are joined by professional bodies and our fellow faculties from different universities of Bangladesh. We are sending a clear message today that each organization, though differing in roles and orientations, are partners in assuring the quality of higher education that we offer to the people in Bangladesh. We are also expressing our conviction that the single most important component of quality assurance is the linking and the joint responsibility of the

external and the internal. We all the faculties are quality assurers, and a true and functional partnership is the only way to assure and ensure the viability and effectiveness of the quality needs initiative that we now desire to embark on.

5. On the same account, we are expanding the value of the partnership today with our colleagues outside the continent. We certainly will benefit from the 3 expert fellow friends from Australian National University & Australian Defence Force Academy. And I hope this expanded dimension of quality needs in tertiary education can be further deliberated during the business session and well captured in the conclusions at the end of the seminar.

Ladies and Gentleman

6. I believe that the session ahead provide us the opportunity to discuss on the quality needs of tertiary education in order to prosper, because a country needs a great higher education system. Investment in education yields a tremendous return. well educated graduates get better jobs. Trained workers enable companies to compete successfully in local or global markets. And these empowered individuals become creative entrepreneurs who will create new ventures and jobs for a country like Bangladesh burdened by effects of Unemployment.

7. And I also believe that in the business session all participants will be able to formulate a truly multi-stakeholder set of policy recommendations, which can be presented to government of Bangladesh. We will ensure to have final report and proceedings in the website of BUP for easy downloading and easy access to participants. With that note, again, a very warm welcome to all of you and I hope that the Seminar will be fruitful and your next few hours here will be productive and also enjoyable.

Thank you.

Ladies & gentleman, with the permission of the chair, I would like to introduce our key note speaker who is Prof Dr Charles Carillo Villanueva. He is presently the Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration and at the same time, the Senior Vice President, Center for Research, Planning and Development of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), He is responsible in establishing the University's Quality Assurance Cell/Center in the pursuit for quality and excellence. This is the first of its kind in Bangladesh. In response to the challenge of international accreditation of its academic program, he is coordinating the overall accreditation activities of the university particularly the BBA and MBA/EMBA programs with the Philippine Association of Accrediting Schools Colleges and Universities (PAASCU).

Without further ado, let us welcome Prof Charles Carillo