





FOREWORD

University of Dhaka – Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

As Bangladesh's oldest and most prestigious public university, founded in 1921 and constituted under the Dhaka University Order 1973, the University of Dhaka (DU) has long served as the intellectual engine of the nation. From producing the country's leading civil servants, academics, scientists, policy thinkers, and cultural leaders, to serving as the birthplace of key democratic and social movements, DU's history is deeply intertwined with Bangladesh's national aspirations.

In alignment with the Government of Bangladesh's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, DU recognises its statutory, academic, and ethical responsibility to lead from the front. As a comprehensive public university with 13 faculties, 83 departments, over 50 research centres and institutes, and a vast network of colleges affiliated under its academic supervision, DU is in a uniquely advantageous position to contribute to the SDG agenda across teaching, research, innovation, community engagement, and policy support.

DU's Strategic Position for SDG Implementation

Dhaka University's contributions to the SDGs are strengthened through:

- A diverse ecosystem of academic departments that span science, technology, medicine, business, social sciences, arts, humanities, and environmental studies.
- Specialized research institutes and centres—including IER, IML, DSCR, BER, CMBT, NPU, NPT, CRP, and the newly established Centre for China Studies (CCS)—that produce nationally relevant research and policy inputs.
- Extensive partnerships with government ministries, UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO), national NGOs, and global academic networks.
- A strong alumni footprint in public service, education, diplomacy, science, technology, business, the judiciary, and cultural sectors.
- Active linkages with industry, particularly through the Faculties of Business Studies, Engineering & Technology, Science, and Pharmacy, enabling internships, applied research, innovation, and workforce development.
- Robust connections to policy-making bodies, as DU's faculty routinely serve on national commissions, reform committees, advisory councils, and government task forces.

Together, these strengths place DU in an advantageous national and regional position to contribute meaningfully to the SDGs and to excel in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

Our Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

DU's Institutional Commitment to THE Impact Rankings

Recognising the value of THE Impact Rankings in highlighting a university's contribution to society, DU has embarked on a multi-year effort to strengthen data systems, expand evidence collection, and embed SDG-aligned practices across the institution.

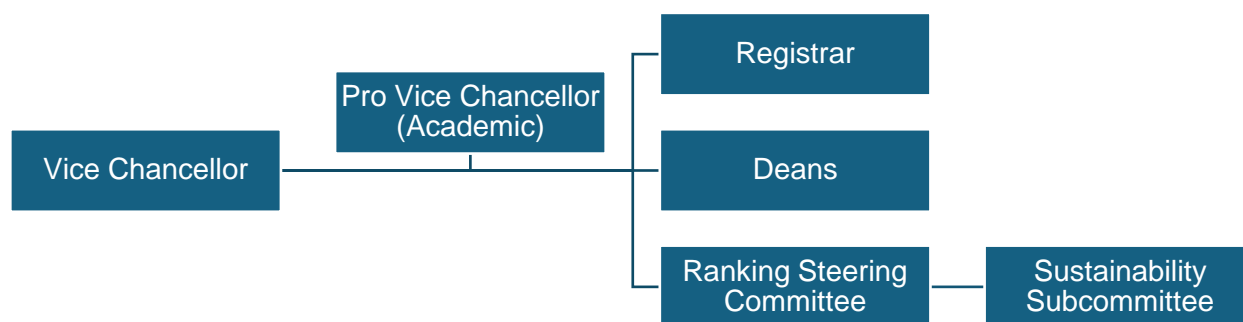
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

Professor Dr. Md. Mamun-Ur-Rashid Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka and Prof. Shamsad Mortuza as the Ranking subcommittee (sustainability) convener.

Under his leadership, the committee works relentlessly to:

- Coordinate SDG-related data from all faculties, institutes, departments, offices and centres
- Validate evidence aligned with THE's measurement framework
- Facilitate training sessions and capacity building across units
- Ensure alignment with national SDG targets and development priorities
- Support data-driven decision making for institutional improvement

A network of SDG Focal Points—including deans, directors, chairpersons, and administrative leaders—works closely with the committee to ensure comprehensive and accurate reporting.



Ranking Steering Committee

Professor Dr. Mamun Ahmed Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, PhD Honourable Treasurer, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Abdus Salam Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. B M Mainul Hossain Director, Institute of Information Technology (IIT), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Syed Shahadat Hossain Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), , University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Rakibul Islam Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan Department of Statistics, University of Dhaka	-	Member

Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Registrar's Office, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

Sustainability Sub-committee

Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mohammad Moninoor Roshid Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam Department of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Mohammad Abul Kawser Department of History	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rifat Amin Technical Officer, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

Learning Through Engagement: DU in THE Masterclasses & Global Communities

To build internal capacity and learn global best practices, DU actively participates in:

- THE Masterclasses & Workshops, where team members learn from international experts on evidence preparation, SDG data management, and benchmarking.
- Peer-learning initiatives with leading universities in Asia, the UK, and the Global South.
- Policy dialogues and roundtables hosted by THE and affiliated bodies.
- Collaborative activities with UN agencies, including curriculum design (UNICEF), research grants (UNDP), health and demographic projects (UNFPA, WHO), youth engagement (UNESCO), and climate-resilience initiatives.
- DU embraces a philosophy of “learning to learn with others”—engaging globally to strengthen national capacity and embedding sustainability literacy into university culture.

Looking Forward: DU’s Strategic Vision for SDG 2030

With the Government of Bangladesh aiming to achieve the SDG goals by 2030, DU reaffirms that:

- Our research, teaching, and public engagement will remain closely aligned with national priorities. Our Vision statement, reads, “Create a world-class educational ecosystem that enables individuals to act as dynamic human capital and ethical leaders for a sustainable future.” [<https://www.du.ac.bd/university/VisionMission>]
- We will expand our documentation and impact measurement systems to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Partnerships with government bodies, international organisations and industry will be scaled up to amplify societal impact.
- We will continue to position DU as a leading SDG-driven university in South Asia, advancing the nation’s knowledge economy and development agenda.

As Bangladesh’s flagship university, the University of Dhaka is committed to becoming a global model of SDG excellence—through rigorous research, transformative teaching, social responsibility, and inclusive national development.



SDG 9 — Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

Executive Summary

DU's innovation ecosystem—spanning Engineering & Technology, CARS, Business Studies, and the upcoming DU Innovation Hub—drives research, entrepreneurship, and industry collaboration. DU laboratories contribute to materials science, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, ICT, and economics research. Partnerships with industry facilitate internships, applied research, and startup growth.

High-Impact Claim: *DU is a central node in Bangladesh's innovation pipeline, producing industry-ready graduates and research with real-world application.*

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

SDG 9 emphasizes resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrial development, and innovation-driven growth. In 2024, Dhaka University (DU) advanced this agenda through a dual strategy: strengthening institutional partnerships that shape national capacity, and nurturing a vibrant ecosystem of youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship. Together, these efforts positioned DU as a central catalyst for Bangladesh's transition toward a knowledge-based, technology-driven economy.

At the institutional level, DU accelerated high-impact collaboration with national and international bodies. The landmark MoU with the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) addressed long-standing skill mismatches by aligning curricula, labour-market studies, and technical training with national economic priorities. Complementing this, the Faculty of Business Studies entered strategic agreements with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) and BIPO Service Ltd., while the Institute of Leather Engineering and Technology (ILET) deepened cooperation with The Asia Foundation and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). These engagements strengthened sector-specific research, curriculum modernization, and professional pathways.

In parallel, DU expanded a powerful bottom-up innovation culture. The Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Center remained the nucleus of student-led experimentation, mentoring, and enterprise development. The year's flagship event, Code Samurai 2024, organized by CSE in partnership with BJIT, attracted hundreds of teams nationwide, offering students hands-on engagement with industry-defined challenges. Student organizations amplified this momentum: DUEDC's "Creaventure 3.0", IBA case competitions, and departmental innovation contests helped diversify the innovation landscape into healthcare, business strategy, and marketing.

Despite national political instability affecting some international competitions, DU's innovation ecosystem continued to demonstrate resilience and adaptability. External disruptions highlighted the broader infrastructural challenges Bangladesh faces—reminding stakeholders that innovation depends not only on technical systems but also on political, logistical, and institutional stability.

Overall, DU's 2024 activities reveal a cohesive strategy: strengthening national human capital through structured partnerships while empowering youth as innovators, problem-solvers, and future entrepreneurs. This integrated approach places DU at the heart of Bangladesh's efforts to build resilient infrastructure, advance technological capability, and cultivate a dynamic innovation economy.

DU Innovation & Infrastructure Highlights — 2024

Institutional Partnerships & Capacity Building

Landmark MoU with NSDA to align curricula & skills with national priorities

Strategic agreements with ICAB and BIPO Service Ltd.

ILET partnerships with The Asia Foundation & ADB

Focus: curriculum modernization, sector-specific research, industry-relevant training



Figure 1: MoU Between ICAB and Dept. of Banking and Insurance, DU, 12 Jun 2024, 5:46pm

Full news link: <https://www.icab.org.bd/publication/news/3/1381/MoU-Between-ICAB-and-Dept.-of-Banking-and-Insurance,-DU>

Innovation Ecosystem & Youth Leadership

ICE Center as the hub for student incubation & enterprise support

Student–faculty innovation mentoring

Platforms for prototyping, start-ups & creative experimentation

Competitions & Hackathons (High Participation)

Code Samurai 2024: hundreds of teams nationwide; industry-defined technical challenges

Creaventure 3.0 by DUEDC: nationwide entrepreneurship teams

IBA’s “Future of Capitalism” & departmental case challenges across disciplines



Figure 2: Registration for programming contest 'Code Samurai 2024' begins Dec 10, 07 Dec 2023, 21:21

Full news link: <https://www.observerbd.com/news/471905v>

Sectoral & National Engagement

Strengthened industry linkages across finance, technology, leather, and development sectors

Expanding applied research guided by national priorities

Challenges Recognized

National instability causing cancellation of major competitions

Reminder that resilience requires stable governance & logistical infrastructure

High-Impact Claims with Evidence (THE Impact Ranking-Aligned)

- ✓ DU is a national leader in innovation ecosystems, supporting hundreds of students through hackathons, incubation, and entrepreneurship programs.
- ✓ High-level MoUs (NSDA, ICAB, ADB, Asia Foundation) demonstrate DU's strategic role in building industry-ready human capital.
- ✓ Structural partnerships in 2024 modernized curriculum, expanded applied research, and strengthened national capacity in priority sectors (finance, technology, leather, development).
- ✓ DU's ICE Center provides one of the country's largest university-based innovation platforms, nurturing prototypes, start-ups, and student-led solutions.
- ✓ DU's competitions (e.g., Code Samurai) attract nationwide participation, reinforcing its leadership in STEM and innovation.
- ✓ DU's holistic strategy—systemic reform + grassroots creativity—positions it as a central driver of Bangladesh's emerging innovation economy.