





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.

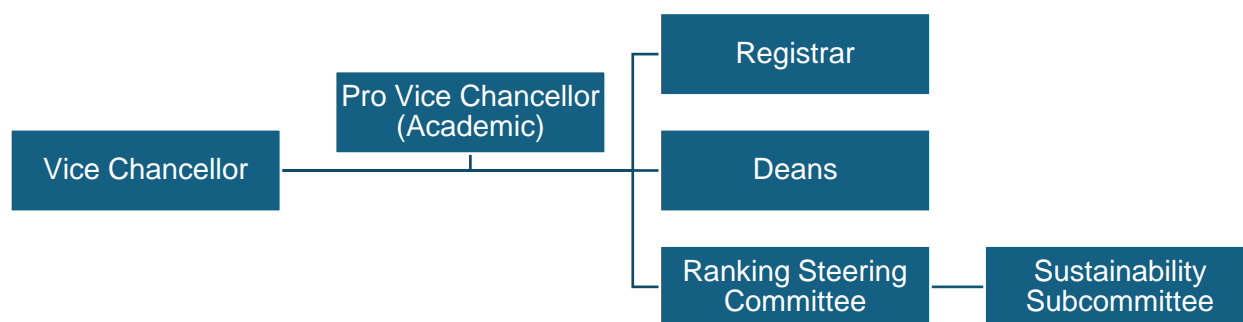
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

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 14: Life Below Water

SDG 14 focuses on the protection and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources—an increasingly important priority for Bangladesh as the country expands its blue economy and confronts mounting coastal vulnerabilities. In 2024, the University of Dhaka (DU) strengthened its role as a national leader in marine science through international collaboration, applied research, and high-level policy engagement. DU's initiatives demonstrate a long-term institutional commitment to ocean sustainability, marine capacity-building, and regional scientific cooperation.

At the center of this work is DU's strategic partnership with China's First Institute of Oceanography (FIO) under the Marine Science and Technology Cooperation MoU. The collaboration covers seven key domains:

- marine disasters and disaster management
- ocean and climate modeling
- marine biotechnology
- marine geology
- ocean forecasting
- ecosystem monitoring
- joint ocean observations

This partnership produced significant activity in 2024. An FIO delegation visited DU in July to expand joint research programs and explore co-supervised PhD opportunities. In December, follow-up meetings in Kunming reaffirmed DU's role in regional marine research networks, with a focus on advanced ocean modeling and biotechnology. These engagements have positioned DU as a growing contributor to marine science capacity in South Asia.

DU also played a prominent academic role in shaping national dialogue on ocean governance. At the international conference “Ocean Prosperity: Catalyzing Blue Economy in Bangladesh” (3 July 2024, BCFCC), DU faculty and administrators participated as moderators, session chairs, and presenters. The Vice Chancellor served as a special guest, and DU experts delivered insights on blue economy infrastructure, marine pollution, and ocean health—reinforcing DU's reputation as a key knowledge partner in national policy shaping.

By combining international collaboration, academic leadership, and research capacity-building, DU strengthened its contributions to SDG 14 in 2024. These efforts support Bangladesh's transition toward a sustainable, resilient, and innovation-driven blue economy.

DU Ocean & Marine Sustainability — 2024 Highlights

International Marine Research Collaboration

Active MoU with First Institute of Oceanography (China)

Focus areas: ocean modeling, marine disasters, biotechnology, forecasting

FIO delegation visit (July 2024) → joint research expansion

Kunming meetings (Dec 2024) → strengthened PhD collaboration and marine biotechnology initiatives



Figure 1: A meeting between DU and FIO held in China

Marine Science Capacity Building

Joint seminars, research workshops & faculty exchanges

Progress toward co-supervised PhD programs in marine science

DU contributing to national capacity for ocean observation & climate-linked marine research



Figure 2: Meeting on strengthening ongoing joint collaborative academic and research programmes on ocean science, marine forecasting and disaster management between the DU and the National Marine Environmental Forecasting Centre of China, 19 October, 2024, 01:14.

Blue Economy Policy Engagement

Major academic presence at “Ocean Prosperity: Catalyzing Blue Economy” (3 July 2024)

DU experts presented on pollution, ocean health, and marine infrastructure

Vice Chancellor served as special guest

DU recognized as a policy advisor in Bangladesh’s blue economy strategy

Scientific Expertise → Policy Impact

Evidence-based contributions to sustainable ocean management

Research linked to marine conservation, pollution control & maritime development

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU is one of Bangladesh's leading university partners in international marine science research, with an active multi-domain collaboration with FIO in China.
- ✓ Through high-level bilateral meetings in July and December, DU advanced joint PhD pathways and strengthened national capacity in ocean modeling and marine biotechnology—critical areas for climate adaptation.
- ✓ DU faculty served in key roles at the national blue economy conference, reinforcing DU as a central academic advisor in shaping ocean-policy frameworks for Bangladesh.
- ✓ DU's marine science initiatives link research with national priorities, contributing directly to SDG 14 targets for ocean conservation, pollution reduction, and sustainable maritime development.
- ✓ By building long-term international research networks, DU enhances Bangladesh's readiness for a data-driven, resilient, and innovation-focused blue economy.