Sustainability Report

Academic Year 2024
University of Dhaka

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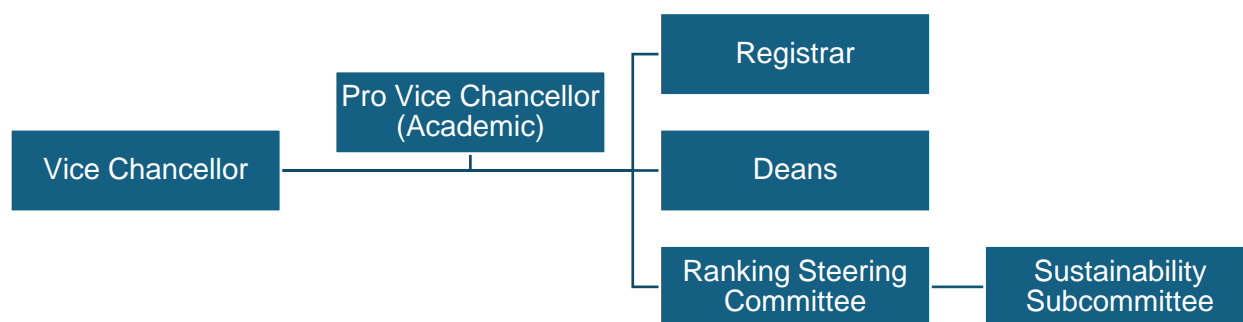
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

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. Mohammod 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 Histoty	-	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 17 — Partnerships for the Goals

Executive Summary

DU maintains extensive local, national, and international partnerships with UN agencies, ministries, NGOs, industry, and global universities. These partnerships enhance research, training, capacity building, and SDG implementation. DU regularly participates in **THE Masterclasses**, global SDG forums, and international policy networks.

High-Impact Claim:*DU is Bangladesh's strongest academic connector to global development networks—leveraging partnerships to accelerate national SDG progress.*

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

SDG 17 emphasizes the power of partnerships to advance sustainable development through shared knowledge, coordinated action, and resource mobilization. In 2024, Dhaka University (DU) demonstrated a markedly strengthened commitment to this goal by expanding its national and international collaborations across research, capacity-building, cultural engagement, and social development. Through strategic alliances with global universities, government bodies, development partners, and civil society, DU affirmed its role as a central hub for knowledge exchange and cooperative innovation—essential drivers for achieving the SDGs in Bangladesh and beyond.

A significant milestone was DU's new Memorandum of Understanding with the State University of New York (SUNY) – Empire State. Signed in December 2024, this landmark partnership opened pathways for joint research, faculty and student exchanges, co-hosted academic events, and shared scholarly resources. This collaboration strengthens DU's global academic footprint and enhances its international research networks.

Complementing this, DU deepened cooperation with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), focusing on integrating peacekeeping expertise, regional security research, and applied training programs. These initiatives reflect DU's steady movement toward partnerships that combine academic knowledge with real-world societal challenges.

Scientific collaboration also expanded. DU's affiliation with the Center of Research Excellence in Semiconductor Technology connected the University to cutting-edge research ecosystems in electronics, materials science, and IT innovation—areas central to sustainable industrial transformation.

Research excellence continued to anchor DU's partnership strategy. Awards such as the Razzak Shamsun Nahar Research Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award highlighted DU's internal capacity to foster high-impact scholarship. Individual achievements—most notably the IEEE Electron Devices Society Masters Fellowship—demonstrated DU's ability to cultivate globally competitive talent.

DU also reinforced its commitment to social responsibility and inclusivity through workshops on gender-based violence, ethical leadership programs, and humanitarian committees that cultivate civic values among students. These structures ensure that DU's partnerships remain grounded in equity, justice, and societal relevance.

Cultural initiatives contributed to a holistic partnership ecosystem. The Department of Sculpture's annual exhibition, along with departmental ceremonies such as orientation and farewell events, strengthened interdisciplinary dialogue and community cohesion. Regionally, DU's representation at international platforms— such as the D-8 NPRI Conference in Nigeria—reinforced its commitment to global cooperation in science, technology, and innovation. Observance of World Philosophy Day, themed "Philosophy for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future," linked global intellectual traditions to DU's ethos of inclusive education.

Collectively, DU's 2024 initiatives represent a coherent and multidimensional approach to SDG 17—mobilizing knowledge, strengthening institutional capacity, fostering social inclusion, and expanding global academic networks. They reaffirm DU's role as a catalyst for collaborative innovation and sustainable development at national, regional, and international levels.

DU Partnerships for Sustainable Development — 2024 Highlights

🌐 Global Academic Alliances

Landmark MoU with SUNY – Empire State

Joint research programs

Faculty & student exchange pathways

Co-organized seminars & conferences

Shared academic resources

🤝 Development & Peacebuilding Partnerships

Expanded collaboration with KOICA

Focus: peacekeeping expertise, regional security research, training programs

Figure 1: KOICA Country Director calls on DU VC

⚗ Scientific & Innovation Networks

Active engagement with the Center of Research Excellence in Semiconductor Technology

Strengthening national capacity in electronics & technological innovation

🏅 Research Excellence & Global Recognition

Awards: Razzak Shamsun Nahar & Lifetime Achievement Award

Student recognition: IEEE EDS Masters Fellowship

Increased DU representation in international research networks

🎭 Cultural & Community Partnerships

Annual Sculpture Exhibition: art, identity, social values

Academic ceremonies fostering belonging & community cohesion

🌐 Regional & International Engagement

DU represented at D-8 NPRI International Conference (Nigeria)

Expanded global networks in STI (Science, Technology & Innovation)

Observance of World Philosophy Day: promoting ethical and inclusive futures

High-Impact Claims

✔ DU has positioned itself as one of the fastest-growing international partnership hubs among South Asian universities, formalizing major collaborations in 2024 across science, culture, governance, and peacebuilding.

✔ The SUNY–Empire State MoU represents a strategic leap in DU's global academic integration, enabling long-term joint research, mobility, and knowledge-sharing pipelines.

✔ DU's partnership with KOICA demonstrates effective bridging of academic knowledge with practical peacekeeping and security expertise, strengthening national institutional capacities.

✔ By joining the semiconductor research consortium, DU is contributing to Bangladesh's technological future, linking SDG 17 with SDG 9 (industry & innovation).

✔ DU's representation in international forums—from the D-8 NPRI to EU dialogues—reinforces its role as an influential regional voice in global development discourse.

✔ Research awards and international fellowships show that DU is cultivating globally competitive researchers who strengthen partnerships through excellence.

✔ DU's integration of cultural programs, gender-justice dialogues, and ethical education ensures that partnerships are not only technical but inclusive, values-driven, and socially transformative.

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

THE IMPACT RANKINGS – SDG CONTRIBUTION MAP (2026)