

**Commonwealth Association of Architects'  
20th General Assembly and Conference 2013**

Inaugural Session

Speech by

HE Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dhaka, Friday, 10 Falgun 1419, 22 February 2013

---

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

The Chair,

Dear colleagues,

Architects of Commonwealth countries,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum.

I welcome you all at the inaugural ceremony of in the Commonwealth Association of Architects' 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Conference 2013.

In this month of remembrance of our glorious language movement, I recall with reverence those fearless and brave martyrs whose blood had established the honour of our mother-tongue. I pray to Almighty for the salvation of their departed souls. I also respectfully remember the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On his return from Pakistani jail after the independence, Father of the Nation directed to establish sustainable and planned infrastructure for optimum utilization of every inch of land. He bestowed the responsibility to father of modern Bangalee architect Mazharul Islam.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With population boom, the urbanization marks a speedy expansion. But the urbanization is not always a planned one; rather there was some sort of indiscipline in the process in the third world developing countries like ours. Houses and other establishments are being built haphazardly with giving less importance on environment and ecology. Many of us don't hesitate to build infrastructure filling rivers, canal and other water bodies.

Those who are doing these acts, they think, abandoning huge land in the river or water bodies is meaningless and planting trees or making garden is nothing but wastage of land.

The water bodies of Dhaka city have been vanished over the years. The capital has been filled up with unplanned buildings and structures. There are many lanes and by-lanes in the city where even the fire vehicles or ambulances can't enter.

The unplanned urbanization becomes a concern for the whole world. It degrades environment in one hand, on the other becomes a threat to the public health.

The architects have an important responsibility to overcome the problem. For a planned urbanization, Bangladesh Urban Forum has been constituted with the support of the government. I hope the Forum will help build a planned urbanization in the country.

The architects should not only engage in designing of buildings; rather they would have to devote themselves in building an environment-friendly country.

Each and every country has unique characteristics, culture and tradition. These are the important elements for thriving of a nation. At the same time, seasonal variation, climate and natural diversity influence the life and livelihoods of its people. So, we have to take into consideration all these factors while designing any structure. Furthermore, apart from structural design, there is an aesthetic aspect of every structure. The architects would have to lay equal emphasis on the matters and project our culture and tradition in their designs.

We have taken initiatives to implement 'Detailed Area Plan'-DAP to build a planned Dhaka bringing discipline in building structures. Recently we inaugurated the scenic Hatijheel project. It will not only play an important role preserving environment of Dhaka city but it has already been turned into an entertainment spot of the city dwellers.

Dear architects,

Ours is a small country. We have to meet our food demand from this limited land area. At the same time we have to set up industries for employment generation along side constructing office, roads etc. However, optimum use to land must be ensured while building these infrastructures so that our scarce land is not wasted.

Alongside the cities and towns, our villages must be built in a planned way. Each of our villages should be self-reliant having educational institution, hat-bazar, entertainment place and play ground.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh Awami is a pro-people party with a mission to alleviate socio-economic condition of the masses. To this end, we have been implementing massive development programmes in education, health, infrastructures and all other sectors.

Bangladesh's economy registered growth rate about 6.5 percent despite global economic meltdown. All the major sectors, including agriculture, industry and service are expanding fast. In terms of growth, Bangladesh is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world. We achieved remarkable success in agriculture and about to attain self-sufficiency in food.

To solve the traffic congestion in the Dhaka city, we have implementing Mirpur-Airport flyover, Kuril multi-purpose flyover and Gulishtan flyover projects. The work on the flyovers is nearing completion. We have already opened to traffic the Banani overpass.

The work on elevated expressway from Airport to Mawa is progressing while an agreement with Japan has been signed to construct metro-rail in the city.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our talented architects have shown their brilliance in constructing various mausoleums across the country. The National Mausoleum at Savar, the Central Shaheed Minar, Rayer Bazar Killing field mausoleum, Independence Mausoleum at Suhwardi garden and Bangabandhu Museum are among the few to be mentioned as their landmark works.

I hope your talents and arduous work will brighten the country's image abroad also. I wish success of the talented young architects.

I hope this international seminar has created a unique opportunity of exchanging views, experience and their works among the fellow architects of the participating countries and thereby enrich each other.

With these few words I declare the assembly and seminar open.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever.