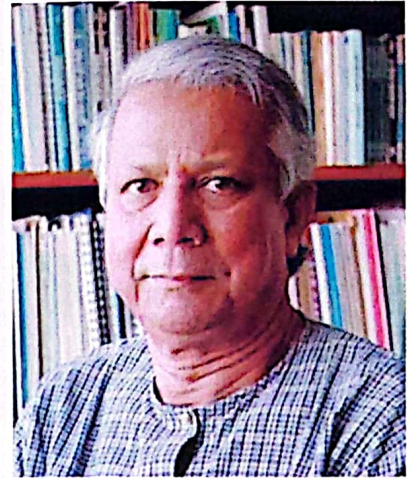


Professor Muhammad Yunus

29th November, 2010



Message for Chittagong International School

I am pleased to join the Chittagong International School (CIS) family, the educators, students, parents, in celebrating the school's 10th anniversary. 10 years ago the School was still meeting in the homes of a few families. From this humble beginning the desire to deepen one's understanding and share, their teaching grew.

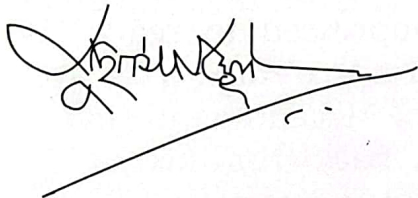
And I am happy to say that CIS not only has served over the years as a model of how a school should develop, but continues to demonstrate positive approaches and attitudes today. Current challenges make great demands on our education system but CIS understands the value of education, one in which everyone unites to achieve common goals.

I emphasize this because every school needs to be both an extension, and an integral part, of its surrounding community. And the Chittagong International School is a testament to that principle. I am certain that as CIS celebrates its rich past, it renews its commitment to continue to be a school dedicated to enriching the knowledge of our future generation.

I look forward to seeing CIS embark on its second decade with fresh confidence, and I wish the School every success in its future endeavor.

Congratulations!

With warmest wishes,



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Message

I would like to express and convey my very best wishes to Chittagong International School (CIS) for very successfully completing the first ten years of its sojourn towards providing high quality and meaningful education to the boys and girls of this region and country. I convey warmest and well deserved congratulations to the principal Mr. Fazle Allem, the teachers and the students over the years for their very fine achievements. In particular, I would like to especially congratulate the student who secured the 'Top of the World' award in Human and Social Biology in the June 2008 session, as well as the students for the 'best performing students in Bangladesh'.

I have been involved with the academic world for several decades. It is not easy to run and organize successfully and smoothly any academic institution- school, college or university- at any period in the past decades and especially in recent times. On the occasions I have visited the CIS, it has been my pleasure to notice the dedication of the principal, the teachers and students towards creating a friendly and congenial academic environment. I hope and wish that they will continue this trend in the foreseeable future with better and more meaningful achievements.

I read the whole of the Volume 10 issue of CIS MIRROR with much interest and found all the items to be very instructive and moving (including the sayings from the Holy Quran and Hadith); I urge everyone to read it carefully. In particular, I was surprised and very impressed to read 'The wishes of Alexander the great'. It is a wonderful and apparently true story which I have not come across before. Alexander, king of Macedonia in Greece, was born in 356 B.C. and died in 323 B.C. on his way back from his various conquests, including North-west India. The story reads as follows:

Alexander was returning home, on the way he fell ill and it took him to his deathbed. With death staring him in his face, Alexander realized how his conquests, his great army, his sharp sword and all his wealth were of no consequence. He now longed to reach home to see his mother's face and bid her last adieu.

Alexander called his generals and said, 'I will depart from this world soon, I have three wishes, please carry them out without fail'. With tears flowing down their cheeks, the generals agreed to abide by their king's last wishes. 'My first desire is that,' said Alexander, 'my physicians alone must carry my coffin'. After a pause he continued, 'Secondly, I desire that when my coffin is being carried to the grave, the path be strewn with gold, silver and precious stones which I have collected in my treasury'. The king felt exhausted after saying this. He took a minute's rest and continued. 'My third and last wish is that both my hands be kept dangling out of my coffin'.

At this Alexander took a deep breath and said. 'I would like the world to know of the three lessons I have learnt. I want my physicians to carry my coffin because people should realise that no doctor can really cure anybody. They are powerless and cannot save a person from the clutches of death. So let not the people take life for granted'.

'The second wish of strewing gold, silver and other riches on the way to the graveyard is to tell people that not even a fraction of gold will come with me. I spent all my life earning riches but cannot take anything with me. Let people realise that it is a sheer waste of time to chase wealth'.

And about my third wish of having my hands dangling out of the coffin, I wish people to know that I came empty handed into this world and empty handed I go out of this world'. With these words, the king closed his eyes. Soon he let death conquer him and breathed his last.

I was also delighted to read “একজন সচেতন অভিভাবিকার বক্তব্য” on the last page by Nusrat Amin's mother Mrs. Ismat Ara. The piece is written very sensibly and sensitively in chaste Bangla. This brings me to a topic I always mention: English is an international language and it has to be studied and proficiency acquired by appropriate persons in all societies. However, one's own language and mother tongue must never be neglected. I am glad to know that O-level Bangla is compulsory. I gather recently they have introduced A-level in various Indian languages such as Urdu and Hindi. I feel sure A-level Bangla will also be introduced (if they haven't done it already). Likewise, in due course, mother tongue of all the tribal languages of Bangladesh should also be included in the curricula and syllabuses.

As I always tell students: Be good to your parents, be good to your teachers, be good to each other. As you grow older, you will realize that these are among the most important things in life. Whatever your achievements, whether excellent or indifferent, the bonds of friendship and fellowship you have acquired here will have a positive influence all your life, wherever you are. And the excellent achievements-you should use these for the benefit of your society and country. With warmest good wishes

Jamal Nazrul Islam
Dr. Jamal Nazrul Islam