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## Want to be a leader?

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It is quite common to hear people complain about the lack of young leaders in Bangladesh. And no, leading a party of people to burn a private car is not the type of leadership we are talking about. We are talking about people who want to, and are capable of, making changes.

It is to fulfill that need, that Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) started the Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) program. The objective is “to train young people and equip them with the necessary communication and leadership skills to bring about positive change in society.” BYLC brings together students from diverse backgrounds and trains them to work together. Last year, this course took place in Chittagong. This year, the course is taking place at Dhaka.

The enrolment process for BYLC is competitive. They will only take 30 students. There was supposed to be a Tk. 10,500 fee, but a full scholarship has been provided by BYLC and the American Center. The month long course will require commitment in terms of time. There will be field trips around the city to participate in community service. So the course is only for people who have completed their HSC, A'levels or Alim exams, but not yet enrolled in a university. BYLC will also provide career counseling for students applying for universities at home and abroad.

BYLC is a non-profit organization, the concept of which was developed in 2008 by Ejaj Ahmed, a Harvard graduate student, and Shammi Shawkat Quddus, an MIT student. It has won the 2008 Kathryn Davis Projects for Peace Prize and was a finalist in the 2008 YSEI Social Entrepreneurship Competition. They received financial and technical support from MIT Public Service Center for their first project in Bangladesh last year. The deadline for application is June 4, 2009. You can apply online at [www.bylc.org](http://www.bylc.org).

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