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BYLC: Helping you become a leader for your community

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"I have a dream."

"That one day, my four children will live in a nation where they are not judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King's words still echo in the hearts, most resonantly in those whose lives were changed by his leadership. Many others drew inspiration from his life, and the lives of many other leaders, to take the initiative to change their communities.

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) is a registered non-profit organization in Bangladesh that focuses on building compassionate and competent leaders. Its concept and curriculum was developed at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in January 2008. BYLC's first month-long leadership program, Building Bridges through Leadership Training, won the 2008 Davis Peace Prize in the US, and was implemented in Chittagong by Ejaj Ahmad and Shammi Shawkat Quddus of MIT.

This summer you can be a part of an exciting month-long journey, which has various components. One of the unique aspects of this program is that, a total of 30 students will be selected competitively, equally from English-medium schools, Bangla-medium schools and Madrassas. Through this, program participants will not only learn about leadership but also get to interact with a diverse group and learn to think from different perspectives an important component of leadership.

The leadership sessions will be conducted by BYLC founder Ejaj Ahmad. He will be assisted by leadership facilitators from Dhaka University's IBA and Department of Economics. Two experienced trainers from BRAC University's Institute of Educational Development will also work as leadership facilitators for the program.

The final component of the program is community service. After learning invaluable concepts of leadership, it is important to go into action right away. Leadership is as much about knowledge as it is about practice. In last year's program that took place in Chittagong, students spent 670 hours in 'Kusumbag' slum where they went door to door to interact with the people and learn about the various problems that they had. They then developed and implemented creative projects that were sustainable and would benefit the community in the long run.

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After the resounding success of last year's program in Chittagong, this year the thrilling opportunity is open for the first time in Dhaka this summer. All students who have completed class 10, 11 and 12 from any educational medium are eligible to apply. The program will take place from 19 June to 23 July 2009 at BIAM Foundation. Selected participants will be required to attend the after school program six days a week for the entire duration of the program.

This is a highly competitive program, where selected participants will receive full scholarship from the U.S. Embassy. At the end of the program, students will receive the prestigious graduation certificate from BYLC and will have a life-changing experience for their future. Application deadline is Thursday 4th June 2009 and you can download the application at:

<http://www.bylc.org/admission>

We are living in a time when our country needs us to step up. All around us there are opportunities to bring about change for the better. If you think you can step up and be at the forefront, come forward and apply. You might just be the leader that your community is looking for!

URL:

http://www.thedailystar.net/campus/2009/05/05/feature_illiteracy.htm

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