

MEDIA RELEASE



Australia Awards scholars welcomed home

Australian High Commissioner Greg Wilcock today welcomed home 86 Bangladeshi scholars who have been studying in Australia under the Australia Awards.

The Australia Awards are the Australian Government's prestigious international scholarships and fellowships, offering the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development. Bangladesh is a major beneficiary of the scheme.

Speaking to the returning scholars, Mr Wilcock said "the skills you've gained in Australia will enhance your personal growth, your careers and your contribution to Bangladesh's success".



Australia Awards returnees welcomed home

Mr Wilcock added that Australia, too, gained from the Australia Awards: "As Australian university alumni, you join the thousands of Bangladeshis who've studied in Australia over the years, and add immeasurably to strong personal ties between our countries".

The Australia Awards Alumni Association, which co-hosted the homecoming event, fosters an influential community of Australian university alumni in Bangladesh. During the event, the alumni association welcomed its new members and endorsed its governing documents.

Mr Asif-uz-Zaman, Additional Secretary of Economic Relations Division, acknowledged the significant support provided by Australia to Bangladesh. This financial year, Australia will provide over \$90 million in development assistance for Bangladesh. The Australia Awards are an important part of this assistance.

The next round of Australia Awards Scholarships will open on 1 February 2015. More information on Australia Awards is available at www.australiaawards.gov.au and www.australiaawardsbangladesh.org.

Australian High Commission, Dhaka, 3 December 2014

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