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House No. 7, Road No. 2  
Khulshi Hills, Chittagong, Bangladesh  
(P) 880-31-2551681  
(F) 880-31-2551683

AUW Support Foundation  
1100 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 300  
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA  
(P) 617-914-0500 (F) 617-354-0247

## **Introduction**

The Asian University for Women (AUW) is being established as an institution of higher learning for women from across Asia. Located in Chittagong, Bangladesh, the University aims to be a regional institution of the highest quality which will prepare women to be leaders in the public and private sectors in their communities and the Asia region. The University is scheduled to open in August 2009 with 200 students and will grow to a student body of about 2750. The principal institutional financial supporters of the project to date include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Goldman Sachs Foundation, the Packard Foundation, the Open Society Institute, Citigroup Foundation, and USAID (a current list of donors is attached).

AUW will educate promising young women from diverse cultural, religious, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds from across Asia, with a particular emphasis on the inclusion of women from poor, rural, and refugee populations. AUW's goal is to equip its graduates with the knowledge and skills to play a role in promoting sustainable development, economic progress, and social and political equity in Asia. This will be achieved through the curriculum, extracurricular activities, and internships.

## **Academic Leadership and Program**

Dr. Hoon Eng Khoo will serve as the University's Provost. Dr. Khoo currently serves as the Vice President for Academic Planning at the AUW Support Foundation. Educated at Smith College, St. Mary's Medical School at the University of London, and the University of Dundee, Dr. Khoo came to AUW from the National University of Singapore, where she was Vice Dean and, most recently, Deputy Head of the Medical Education Unit, Associate Director of the Centre for Development of Teaching and Learning, and Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. Dr. Khoo is deeply involved in women's rights advocacy and is a founding member of AWAM: All-Women's Action Society Malaysia, and was an activist and leader in AWARE: Association of Women for Action and Research, a women's advocacy group in Singapore.

Dr. Khoo envisions that the University will offer a distinctive program of study, unusual in Asia, which will combine rigorous undergraduate liberal arts education with at least one graduate program in Information and Communication Technology. Students will have the opportunity to earn both Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and will also acquire work experience during the course of their studies through a series of internships in public and private organizations. Critical inquiry, active learning, entrepreneurship, and problem solving will be emphasized throughout the curriculum.

## **Access Academy – Pre-collegiate Program**

In keeping with its commitment to diversity and equality, AUW also offers the Access Academy: a year-long pre-collegiate bridge program which provides supplementary training in English, math, and computer skills to promising young women whose secondary school training has not fully prepared them for demanding University-level studies. The Access Academy thus gives students

from underserved communities the opportunity to enter AUW on equal academic footing with their more privileged peers. The Access Academy, AUW's first operational program, opened in March 2008 with an inaugural class of 130 students – selected from a pool of 1200 applicants - from six Asian countries. AUW partnered with WorldTeach, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Center for International Development at Harvard University, to identify, recruit and train teachers for the Access Academy.

### **Partnerships for Master's Programs**

The University is engaging with select, highly regarded institutions around the world to help develop its graduate programs. Aalborg University in Denmark has entered into an agreement with AUW to collaborate on establishing a graduate program in Information & Communication Technology. This is projected to be a decade-long association that encompasses collaboration around curriculum planning, facilities design, and faculty recruitment, teaching and research, as well as other support for enhancing and monitoring educational quality.

### **Recruitment of Students**

AUW has established partnerships with secondary schools, non-governmental organizations, local ministries of education, and other public and private education networks to identify and recruit potential students. Working with local coordinators, the Access Academy was able to bring in students from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka in its first year. Recruiting for the Academy and University for the 2009-10 academic year will continue in these countries and extend to Bhutan, Vietnam, and possibly additional countries. The number of Asian countries in which AUW recruits will grow as additional partnerships are formed.

### **Academic Space and Campus**

AUW has leased and outfitted space in Chittagong to house the Access Academy's residential and academic facilities, and will do the same for the University for the near term. Ultimately the University and Academy will occupy a beautifully-designed, functionally superb, and environmentally-sensitive permanent campus which has been master-planned by world-renowned architects Moshe Safdie and Associates. The Government of Bangladesh has given AUW a site of over 100 acres on the outskirts of Chittagong on which to build the campus.

### **Institutional Autonomy**

The basis of AUW's institutional identity is a detailed Charter that establishes the University as an international, independent organization with privileges and immunities akin to those generally accorded to UN agencies. The Charter was approved and ratified through an Act of the Parliament of Bangladesh in September 2006. It provides AUW with institutional autonomy, guarantees full academic freedom and wholly enshrines the principle of non-discrimination—unique privileges in a region where universities frequently suffer from the fragility of such commitments.

### **Governance of the University**

The development of the University is being guided by an international network of proven leaders in the fields of education, finance, and development who serve on its various boards (see attachments). The Asian University for Women Support Foundation (AUWSF), incorporated as a non-profit organization based in the United States, serves as the principal planning and fundraising organization for this effort. In 2007, AUWSF began developing the slate for the University's founding Board of Trustees, drawing from the region's leaders in the business, academic and non-governmental sectors. The Board of Trustees is due to be formally elected by the International Support Committee in October 2008.

### **Founder and CEO of AUWSF**

The Asian University for Women Support Foundation (AUWSF) is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Kamal Ahmad serves as the President and CEO of AUWSF. Mr. Ahmad was educated at Phillips Exeter Academy, Harvard College, and the University of Michigan Law School. Mr. Ahmad has combined a career in private transactional law practice and international development. He focused on corporate mergers and acquisitions as well as US federal securities laws while at the New York offices of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson (1996-2000) and the London office of Mayer, Brown, Rowe and Maw (2001-2002). Immediately prior to founding the Asian University for Women Support Foundation, he was on the staff of the General Counsel of the Asian Development Bank based in Manila, Philippines. He has also worked with the World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation and UNICEF. In 1998, Mr. Ahmad helped launch the World Bank/UNESCO Task Force on Higher Education and Society and co-directed it with Professor David Bloom of Harvard University. Mr. Ahmad currently serves on the Board of Trustees, BRAC USA, and as a member of the Jury for Asia, Cartier Women's Initiative Awards.

### **Chairman of the Board of AUWSF**

Jack Meyer is Chairman of the AUW Support Foundation. He is CEO and Senior Managing Partner of Convexity Capital Management, LP in Boston. Before founding Convexity, he was President and CEO of Harvard Management Company, which manages the University's endowment assets, pension funds, charitable trusts and pooled income funds totaling in excess of \$31 billion by the end of his term. Prior to joining HMC, Mr. Meyer was Treasurer and Chief Investment Officer of the Rockefeller Foundation where he managed the Foundation's endowment, valued at \$2 billion. Before the Foundation, he was Deputy Controller of New York City, where he managed \$20 billion in total assets, including the City's pension funds, sinking funds, and treasury funds. Mr. Meyer currently serves on the Board of Directors as well as the Investment Committee of The Boston Foundation.

Mr. Meyer received a Bachelor of Science from Denison University, where he was also awarded an honorary doctorate degree in 2004. Mr. Meyer received his Masters in Business Administration from Harvard Business School.

### **Transparency and Accountability**

The AUW Support Foundation has adopted strict internal policies to establish zero tolerance for corruption. It has partnered with BRAC—the leading and most highly reputable NGO in the region—to serve as voluntary internal auditors, and engaged Transparency International—the global watchdog on corruption—as an independent monitor. The Asian University for Women is therefore anticipated to serve as a regional model for integrity, accountability, and transparency.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AUW SUPPORT FOUNDATION**

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**Jack R. Meyer**, Senior Managing Partner and CEO, Convexity Capital Management; Former President, Harvard Management Company; *Board Chairman*

**Kamal Ahmad**, President and CEO, Asian University for Women Support Foundation

**Ritu Banga**, Member of the Executive Board, Joint Schools Activities, Inc.

**Vivian Lowery Derryck**, Senior Vice President, Academy for Educational Development; Former Assistant Administrator for Africa, US Agency for International Development (USAID)

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**Janet Montag**, formerly with JPMorgan Chase, New York City

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**Jennifer A. Shore**, Former Vice President, Citigroup, Inc.

**Diana L. Taylor**, Managing Director, Wolfensohn & Company, LLC; Former Superintendent of Banks for the State of New York

## **AUW INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

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Head of the Government, People's Republic of Bangladesh; *Committee Co-Chair, ex officio*

**Lone Dybkjaer**, Member of Parliament and Former Minister of Environment, Denmark; *Committee Co-Chair*

**Rasha Al-Sabah**, Under Secretary for Higher Education, Kuwait

**Sang Chang**, Chair of the Korean Council for Presidents of Private Universities; Former Prime Minister of South Korea-designate; Former President of Ewha Woman's University, South Korea

**Donald Johnston**, Former Secretary-General, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); former Attorney-General, Government of Canada

**Kang Kum-Sil**, Ambassador for Gender Affairs and Former Minister of Justice, Republic of Korea

**Mark Malloch Brown**, UK Minister for Africa, Asia, and the UN; Former Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

**Koichiro Matsuura**, Director-General, UNESCO

**Jack R. Meyer**, Senior Managing Partner and CEO, Convexity Capital Management and Former President, Harvard Management Company

**Thoraya Ahmed Obaid**, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Mamphela Ramphela**, Chairperson, Circle Capital Ventures; Former Managing Director, the World Bank; Former Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Town

**George Soros**, Chairman, Soros Fund Management LLC.; Chairman of the Open Society Institute

## **BANGLADESH BOARD OF ADVISORS**

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**Rokia Afzal Rahman**, President, Women Entrepreneurs Association, Bangladesh; *Board Chair*

**Fazle Hasan Abed**, Founder and Chairman, BRAC, the world's largest non-governmental organization

**Kamal Ahmad**, President and CEO, Asian University for Women Support Foundation

**Fakhruddin Ahmed**, Chief Adviser, Interim Caretaker Government, Bangladesh; Former Chairman, PKSF (Rural Employment Support Foundation); Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank

**Monowara Hakim Ali**, President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry

**Angela Gomez**, Founder and Executive Director, Banchte Shekha (Learning to Live), a non-governmental organization for women's empowerment based in Jessore, Bangladesh

**Monjulika Chakma**, notable entrepreneur; Proprietor of Bain Textile Company, Bangladesh

**Geetara Safiya Choudhury**, Adviser, Interim Caretaker Government, Bangladesh; Chairperson and Managing Director, Adcomm Ltd, a leading advertising firm; Former President, Dhaka Club

**Jamal Nazrul Islam**, Professor and Director, Research Centre for Mathematical & Physical Sciences, University of Chittagong

**Mamun Rashid**, CEO, Citibank (Bangladesh) Ltd. and Citigroup Country Officer

**A.S.M. Shahjahan**, Former Inspector General of Police, Bangladesh

**Farooq Sobhan**, President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute; Former Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh; Former Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

**Steve Wilson**, President, Chevron Bangladesh

**Muhammad Yunus**, Founder and Managing Director, Grameen Bank; Nobel Peace Laureate 2006

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO AUW

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### *In-Kind*

Government of Bangladesh<sup>1</sup>  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
Google Inc.  
Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw LLP  
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky  
& Popeo

### *\$8 Million and above*

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

### *\$4 Million – \$ 7,999,999*

Jack & Beth Meyer  
Anonymous

### *\$1 Million – \$3,999,999*

Goldman Sachs Foundation  
Open Society Institute

### *\$500,000 – \$999,999*

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US AID

### *\$250,000 – \$499,999*

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### *\$100,000 – \$249,999*

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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
Morgan Stanley  
The Nike Foundation

### *\$50,000 – \$99,999*

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### *\$25,000 – \$49,999*

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### *\$10,000 – 24,999*

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Hilary & Chris Wendel  
Sarah Wiener  
Zwaanstra Foundation

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<sup>1</sup>In-kind contribution of about \$5 Million through donation of land for campus in Chittagong, Bangladesh.