

## **Session 18**

Date: November 22 – November 24, 2019

Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Host University: Daffodil International University (DIU)

Number of Attendees: 73

Number of Participating Countries and Regions: 13

Number of HEIs attending: 38

Theme: Future of Entrepreneurship Education and Experiential Learning: Determinants of Developing Successful Entrepreneurial Eco-System in Asian Economies.

Official Website: <http://aupf2019.daffodil.university>

### **Main Contents:**

Daffodil International University (DIU), in collaboration with the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB), organized the 18<sup>th</sup> Asian University Presidents Forum (AUPF) 2019 for the first time in Bangladesh with the theme “Future of Entrepreneurship Education and Experiential Learning: Determinants of Developing Successful Entrepreneurial Eco-System in Asian Economies”. A three-day conference of academicians and presidents of 38 Asian universities began with a focus on showcasing the universities’ best practices and entrepreneurial education. Around 75 participants, including Presidents, Rectors, and Vice-Chancellors of 13 Asian countries’ universities, joined the 18<sup>th</sup> Asian University Presidents Forum (AUPF) 2019. This event was also a part of Global Entrepreneurship Week in Bangladesh.

Honorable Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the opening ceremony as the Chief Guest. Baybars Altuntas, Chairman, World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF), Turkey as the Keynote Speaker said. “Entrepreneurs were facing big challenges and access to finance was the biggest one. Angel investors were increasing their investments in start-ups. Angel investors are wealthy individuals or groups who invest in start-ups or early-stage small businesses”. The conference illustrated different ideas and concepts which will lead to identifying research problems for conducting empirical research into relevant areas. A panel discussion was also organized on the keynote where speakers stressed the need for collaborative efforts among government, businesses, and universities.

Through the standing committee meeting, Dr. Md. Sabur Khan, Founder and Chairman of Daffodil International University, Bangladesh was in the Chair and conveyed his gratitude to all delegates and universities for their valuable presence and contribution at the 18th AUPF, hosted by DIU, Bangladesh. The committee discussed about Asian Faculty Workshop for teachers as well as administration to develop their pedagogical techniques as well as adaptation to technologies and changes. It was decided to combine with the ASP 2020 which will be held in UniMAP, Malaysia. The committee also discussed for future implementation of Social Business MBA plan, UNESCO accreditation, Expansion of AUPF network, etc. The Chair also thanked for the cordial support to the rest of the member institutions who could not be able to join for unavoidable reasons. Mr. Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, MP, Honorable Deputy

Minister, Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present at the Gala Dinner of 18<sup>th</sup> AUPF and handed over the memento to distinguished participating universities. The Gala Dinner built a buzz and excitement by the colorful cultural performances of DIU students.

Curtains fell on the 18th AUPF 2019 on 24<sup>th</sup> November with a vision to have stronger collaborations among Asian universities in mutual cooperation and technology transfers. Participating universities signed around 200 academic partnerships among them on exchange of students & faculties, research collaboration, scholarships, on the concluding ceremony of the event. Upon the interest of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore, India to host the 19th AUPF 2020 in the VIT campus, **Dr. Govindasamy Viswanathan**, Founder-Chancellor, VIT University, India was congratulated by the committee to win the bid. Dr. Viswanathan sought support from the committee to successfully host the 19th AUPF 2020, and invited all to participate the next AUPF, schedule in November 2020.