

Q K AHMAD

M. A. (Econ.), Dhaka University, Bangladesh (1962)

Ph.D. (Econ.), The London School of Economics and Political Science, London University (1976)

- Current Position : Chairman, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP)

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) is a Centre for Research and Action on Environment and Development, established in 1980. Dr Ahmad has been chairman since October 1987.

- Nationality : Bangladeshi
- Date of birth : 12 March 1943
- **Relevant Key Qualifications**

Dr Q K Ahmad is a socio-economic specialist of international repute and has had to his credit a wide range of research work on policy planning, food and agriculture, environment and water resources, rural development, poverty alleviation, human development, technology and employment generation, women in development and gender issues.

He extensively studied various issues related to development of the South Asia Region, especially Bangladesh. The role of industrialization, employment creation, human skill development, and international trade of regionally produced commodities etc. towards poverty eradication has been the major thrust of his research.

Dr. Ahmad extensively studied trade deficit of Bangladesh with its international trading partners, especially the South Asian and South East Asian countries. Also studied international trade prospects for jute and jute products of Bangladesh and (the then) Pakistan.

He studied regional cooperation possibilities towards the trade of energy (natural gas, hydroelectricity, coal etc.) between India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Dr. Ahmad undertook a study titled “Basis and Perspective of Economic Cooperation and Development for China, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh.” He is a major proponent of regional cooperation involving the four countries.

Carried out research on “Human Capability Development for Sustained Economic Growth, Poverty Alleviation and Social Progress in the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.” Also studied “Policy Environment for Promoting Small and Micro Enterprises in Asia in a Period of Economic Liberalization.” He also contributed with a Country Paper titled “Anatomy of Economic Liberalization Efforts and Results in Bangladesh” in an International Conference on Economic Liberalization in South Asia, held in Australia in 1994.

Dr. Ahmad undertook a study titled “South Asia: Economic Growth and Human Development with Equity, Security and Sustainability - National and Regional Perspectives.” He also studied “Appropriate Technology for Rural Industries in South Asia” and published a synthesis paper in an international anthology published by Tata McGraw-Hill Publishers, India (1989).

Dr. Ahmad devoted a significant proportion of his time to study the process of industrial development, marketing and trade related issues involving industrial commodities and the socio-economic aspects of industrial workers throughout the South Asia Region with a major focus on Bangladesh. Led a team of about 80 researchers to study rural industries in Bangladesh in early 1980s (1978-82). Also led a national team of researchers to study development of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises in Bangladesh (1984-1987). He examined how large industries had been contributing to the development of Bangladesh in the 1980s (1987). On behalf of the Government of Bangladesh Dr. Ahmad formulated national policies and programmes for employment creation in rural Bangladesh which involved rural agriculture-based industries (1987). He also studied the role of women employees in rural industries (1985) and the technological issues towards development of industrial sector in Bangladesh (1987). He also reviewed “Rural Non-farm Economic Activities in Bangladesh (1983).”

Dr. Ahmad participated in a South Asia regional study titled “Role of Women in Rural Industries - A Regional Study,” which involved Bangladesh, India and Nepal (1988). He also studied how regional cooperation in South Asia can help the participating countries to develop their human resources (1982).

He also carried out several studies on implications of structural adjustment on a number of economic sectors of Bangladesh.

Dr. Ahmad authored/edited about ten books, contributed in about 50 anthologies and also published a number of technical articles in internationally reputed journals.

Has been working from time to time as a consultant to UN agencies including FAO, IFAD, ILO, ADB and ESCAP over the years.

Selected Past Positions/Responsibilities

- Member, Panel of Economists, Government of Bangladesh, 1979-81.
- President, Association of Development Research and Training Institutes of Asia and the Pacific (ADIPA), (Central Secretariat: Kuala Lumpur), 1979-83.
- International Vice-President, Society for International Development (SID)/(Central Secretariat : Rome), 1988-91.
- Former Vice-President, Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) and of National Association of Social Sciences, Bangladesh (NASS,B).
- Former Member of the Senates of both Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar Universities.
- Served/Serving as Chairman or Member of various commissions and task forces set up by the Government of Bangladesh over the years.

Membership of Professional Societies

- Member, Society for International Development - SID (Currently Member, International Governing Council)
- Member, Bangladesh Economic Association
- Member, National Association of Social Sciences, Bangladesh
- Member, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh
- Member, Bangla Academy
- Member, Foundation for Research on Educational Planning and Development, Dhaka
- President, Society for Development and Cooperation (SODAC)

Employment Record

October 1987 to date: *Chairman and Chief Executive*, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Dhaka and is responsible for the management of the affairs of the organization.

1984 to 1988: *Research Director*, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and was responsible for the conduct, coordination and supervision of all research activities under his disposal.

From 1977 to 1984: *Senior Research Economist*, BIDS; the responsibilities included conducting multisectoral research studies, supervising younger research staff.

From 1969 to 1977: *Research Economist*, BIDS and was responsible for conducting research and training programmes.

From 1963 to 1969: *Staff Economist*.

- **Publications/Research Works**

Written and published widely, at home and abroad, on economic, technological and environmental issues of development - about 160 books, articles and research reports.

Recent publications (in books and anthologies) include:

Bangladesh Water Vision 2025: Towards a Sustainable Water World, (editor & contributor), Bangladesh Water Partnership and Global Water Partnership, Dhaka, March 2000.

A Framework for Sustainable Development of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) Region, (editor and contributor), Oxford University Press, UK (*in press*), 2000.

Cooperation in the Eastern Himalayan Rivers: Opportunities and Challenges (co-author and editor), Konark Publishers, New Delhi, 2000.

Economic Reforms, People's Participation and Development in Bangladesh, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh/Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Dhaka, July 1998.

The Implications of Climate and Sea-Level Change for Bangladesh, (co-author), Kluwer Academic Publishers, The Netherlands, (Dordrecht/Boston/London), 1996.

Development and Democracy: Must There Be Winners and Losers?, BUP, Dhaka, 1995.

Integrated River Basins Management for Socio-Economic Development of the Region, presented at the seminar on “Management of International River Basins and Environmental Challenges”, organized by Bangladesh National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) on the occasion of **World Day for Water**, Dhaka, 22 March 1994.

Converting Water into Wealth: Regional Cooperation in Harnessing the Eastern Himalayan Rivers, (co-author and co-editor), BUP/Academic Publishers, Dhaka, 1994.

Resources, Environment and Development in Bangladesh - With Particular Reference to the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Basins, (co-author and co-editor), BUP/Academic Publishers, Dhaka, 1994.

Bangladesh Past Two Decades and The Current Decade (editor), BUP/Academic Publishers, 1994.