



BUILDING ENGINEERING DIPLOMACY IN BANGLADESH

From Demonstration Workshops to a Sustainable National and Regional Hub

Concept Note | Dhaka Engineering Diplomacy Workshop 2026 | 25–27 August 2026

WHY THIS INITIATIVE

Bangladesh faces increasingly complex challenges—from transboundary water and energy security to cybersecurity and emerging technologies—that cannot be solved by engineering, policy, or diplomacy alone. Engineering Diplomacy brings these perspectives together to turn knowledge, competing interests, institutional realities, and uncertainty into actionable decisions. The aim is not another discussion platform; it is to build a practical, decision-oriented capability that institutions can use to address real national problems.

AUGUST 2026: DEMONSTRATE THE MODEL

The three thematic workshops—**Water, Energy, and Cybersecurity**—are the first step in a longer institutional journey. Each workshop uses a real Bangladesh challenge and brings together government, academia, industry, civil society, development partners, and practitioners to move from diagnosis to decision and implementation. Thematic workshops will focus on **Water** (Renewal of the Ganges Water Treaty: What Bangladesh Can Do Now?), **Energy** (Shaping Renewable Energy Diplomacy for a Sustainable Future), and **Cybersecurity** (Cybersecurity Startup Challenges in Bangladesh).

WORKSHOP APPROACH

- Expert diagnosis and multiple perspectives
- Dialogue on constraints and enabling conditions
- Decision pathways, tools, metrics, and adaptive learning

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Problem map and decision pathway
- Tool matrix and success metrics
- Adaptive learning plan; near-term commitments
- Synthesis report and policy-oriented outputs

LONG-TERM VISION: 3–5 YEARS

The shared goal is to build a sustainable BUET-led Engineering Diplomacy program serving Bangladesh and South Asia. It will develop a new generation of problem solvers, supporting government and industry, advancing actionable research, and becoming a trusted partner for national and international institutions.

2026 DEMONSTRATION	2027 PARTNERSHIP	2028+ SUSTAINABILITY
• Demonstrate the workshop model • Build a national network • Create reusable materials • Identify future partners	• Shift to BUET-led initiative • Secure institutional commitments • Build multi-partner collaborations • Develop diversified funding	• Engineering Diplomacy Center • Certificate & executive education • Annual workshops & applied research • International partnerships & multi-source funding

WHAT WE NEED FROM LEADERS AND PARTNERS NOW

- 1. Institutional commitment:** identify people, expertise, facilities, coordination capacity and other institutional resources that can support a BUET-led Engineering Diplomacy Program.
- 2. Strategic partnerships:** engage government ministries, universities, development partners, industry, foundations, and international organizations.
- 3. Sustainable funding:** move from Tufts/NSF seed support toward a Bangladesh-led funding model.
- 4. Accountability:** agree on tangible 12-month milestones so that, one year from now, progress can be demonstrated—not merely discussed.

A Measurable and Testable Path to Desirable Outcomes

The August workshops need to end with actionable pathways, near-term commitments, and partnerships that make the next phase possible. The objective is not simply to hold three successful workshops. It is to build an enduring national capability for Engineering Diplomacy that helps Bangladesh address complex national and regional challenges through credible analysis, constructive engagement, and actionable decisions for desirable outcomes.