

Newsletter



Transforming care



Empowering lives





Message from the Chief Executive

As we approach the close of another impactful year, I find myself reflecting on the journey we've undertaken together at Apasen International. Serving as the Chief Executive has been both an honour and a privilege, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member of our dedicated team who has contributed to our collective success.

Our Day Centre and Phoenix School initiatives have been instrumental in reshaping the narrative for individuals with disabilities across Bangladesh. Together, we have fostered an environment of empowerment, inclusivity, and growth. The impact these programmes have had on the lives of our beneficiaries is a source of immense pride, and it fuels our commitment to do even more in the coming year.



As we stand at the threshold of 2024, I am excited about the prospect of expanding our model throughout Bangladesh. Our resolution to replicate the success of the Day Centre and Phoenix School is not just a goal; it's a vision for a more inclusive and compassionate society. We are actively seeking support from both governmental as well as non-governmental organisations to turn this vision into reality.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has been part of this journey – our team, our partners, and the beneficiaries who inspire us daily. Your unwavering support has been the driving force behind our accomplishments, and I am confident that, together, we can achieve even greater milestones in the year ahead.

May the year 2024 bring us the partnerships, resources, and opportunities needed to expand our impact. Let us continue to work tirelessly towards creating a more inclusive Bangladesh, where every individual, regardless of ability, has the chance to flourish.

Wishing you all a New Year filled with hope, success, and the fulfilment of our shared vision.

Mahmud Hasan MBE
Chief Executive
Apasen International

Harmony in Celebration: Apasen International's New Year Unity



Celebrating Three Years of Success

In 2023, Apasen International marked a significant milestone—three years of unwavering success in transforming lives. The celebration was a testament to the dedication of the staff, and even more special with the esteemed presence of Chief Executive Mahmud Hasan MBE. In a moment that resonated deeply with the staff, the management recognised the remarkable contributions of each team member.



Commemorating International Mother Language Day and National Martyrs Day

Apasen members of staff and all our learners gathered to commemorate International Mother Language Day and National Martyrs Day. Amidst the solemnity, the Apasen staff and learners laid flowers at the monument, paying heartfelt tributes to the language martyrs.



At the heart of Apasen International, joy echoed through the halls as staff and learners came together to celebrate the arrival of the New Year. The Day Centre, usually a hub of activities, transformed into a vibrant tapestry of colours and laughter.



Decorations adorned the space, reflecting the diversity of cultures that make up the Apasen family. Staff members, donned in festive attire, shared smiles and stories, emphasizing the unity that binds them. Learners, with enthusiasm in their eyes, contributed to the festive atmosphere, showcasing their artistic creations proudly displayed throughout the centre. The Phoenix School, representing hope and growth, stood as a symbol of the progress made together.

Inclusive Education at Phoenix: Tailoring Learning for Every Child



Phoenix School Introduces Specialised Classrooms for Varied Abilities, Fostering Individual Growth

This year marks the introduction of a dedicated classroom for our capable children, known as the Yellow Class. With a total of four students, our focus is on harnessing their abilities, and our sessions are meticulously designed to elevate their activities. The emphasis lies on enhancing their reading, writing, and speaking skills.



A dedicated teacher oversees the class and is responsible for organizing sessions, supported by an assistant teacher. Additionally, we maintain two other classes, the Red and Blue classes, catering to lower-functioning children. These classes are structured based on the unique capabilities and understanding of the children in attendance.

Phoenix School is set to commence its inaugural term of January 2024, themed 'Food.'

Phoenix School successfully concluded its third term of the year 2023, centring its curriculum on the theme of *CHANGES*. The term was strategically designed, encompassing various areas to impart to children the concept that change is an act or process leading to something different.

The four-month curriculum concluded in December 2023, culminating in colourful as well as joyful celebrations on the 19th of the month. The event was a delightful gathering with the participation of our cherished children, parents, and the entire Phoenix-Apasen family.



Navigating Progress: Insights from the Collaborative Project on Health, Education, and Employment



The ongoing collaborative research project, titled "Status of Health, Education, and Employment among Persons with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities in Bangladesh," continues to unfold with the combined efforts of Apasen International and BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University. As the project progresses, periodic feedback sessions serve as valuable platforms for discussion, ensuring the continuous refinement and enhancement of the research methodologies and outcomes.

The session kicked off with an overview of the collaborative journey, highlighting the seamless synergy between practical fieldwork and academic rigor. Researchers and practitioners alike delved into the intricacies of the methodologies employed, discussing the nuances of data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

Participants at the feedback session included Mahmud Hasan MBE who joined virtually, distinguished researchers from BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, a representative from the government, and experts from relevant fields. Additionally, service users and stakeholders played a crucial role, contributing valuable perspectives to enrich the ongoing collaborative research project. Attendees actively participated in discussions, offering constructive feedback and suggesting potential avenues for refinement or expansion.

The collaborative spirit between Apasen International and BRAC University School of Public Health flourished during the feedback session. Both parties recognised the value of merging on-the-ground experience with academic insight, creating a dynamic synergy that enriched the research endeavour.



Welcome Reception for British High Commissioner

During a welcome reception for the newly appointed British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Sarah Cooke, Apasen country representative, Shah M. Rana had the honour of engaging in a conversation with her. The dialogue naturally centred around Apasen International's impactful efforts in the field of disability support and empowerment across Bangladesh. This meeting took place at a British Business Group event, where Apasen International proudly holds membership.

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PICTURE GALLERY

Apasen International marked the International Day of People with Disabilities on 03 December, emphasizing the promotion of rights and well-being. A spirit-aligned banner adorned our premises, and our day care centre and Phoenix school joined the celebration in vibrant attire. Apasen actively participated in a rally organised by the DC Office, Sylhet. Recognising the power of art for self-expression, our creative artists curated an inclusive exhibition. The day concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and gift distribution to learners, embodying our commitment to respect and empower on this significant occasion.



Apasen International (AI) Chief Executive Mahmud Hasan MBE joins the Kidney Foundation Sylhet event, strengthening partnership in the health and social care field. Together, they aspire to foster a healthier and more compassionate community.

Under the vibrant canopy of nature, Apasen International organised a staff picnic at the picturesque Treetop Picnic Spot in Sylhet. A special highlight was the presence of Phoenix School Headteacher, Veronica Armson, who joined in the festivities.



In a bittersweet gathering, Apasen International recently hosted a Welcome Reception and Farewell for staff members Swarna Moya Sarker, the newly appointed Project Coordinator, and bid a fond farewell to the outgoing Coordinator Umme Rukiya and Care Officer Shamsad Jahan.



Apasen International joyfully celebrates the birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation. On this auspicious day, we honour his legacy and visionary leadership, reflecting on his profound impact on the nation's history. May his principles continue to inspire positive change and unity as we commemorate the life of a true visionary.