

# **THE WINTER SCHOOL**

MEMOIRS IN CHRONOLOGY:

## **Memoirs in chronology:**

**How it all began...August 14, 2023-** Partnership Agreement duly signed by Vice Chancellor, University of Asia Pacific with Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule (OTH) Amberg-Weiden a reputed public higher education institution situated at Amberg-Weiden, Germany.

**A New Chapter ... 11 AM -February 12, 2024.**

### **Day 01: UAP auditorium -The first meet up:**

The Formal Inaugural Ceremony of the Winter School 2024, jointly organized by the School of Business, University of Asia Pacific (UAP), Bangladesh, and Weiden Business School, Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule (OTH) Amberg-Weiden, Germany.

The ceremony was graced by honorable attendees as Chief Guest and Special Guests and included: Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, the president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Bangladesh. Special Guests adorned the ceremony included His excellency, Mr Achim Troster, ambassador of federal republic of Germany to Bangladesh, Professor Dr. Bernt Mayer, Dean of Weiden Business School, and Dr. Gabriele M. Murry, Professor, OTH; and representing UAP: Architect Mahbuba Haque, Chairperson of board of trustees; Mr. Alam Zeb Farjad Ahmed, Member of Board of Trustees; and Professor Dr. M.A. Baqui Khalily, Dean of School of Business. The ceremony was chaired by Professor Dr. Qumrul Ahsan, Vice Chancellor of University of Asia Pacific.

Respected Head of the department, faculties of DBA, participating students of the Winter School as well as students from all semesters filled every corners of the auditorium at the auspicious event.



**To a new beginning: On behalf of UAP, Arch. Mahbuba Haque, Chairperson of BOT, and Professor Dr. Qumrul Ahsan, Vice Chancellor, handing the crest to Mr. Mr. Achim Troster, ambassador of federal republic of Germany to Bangladesh.**



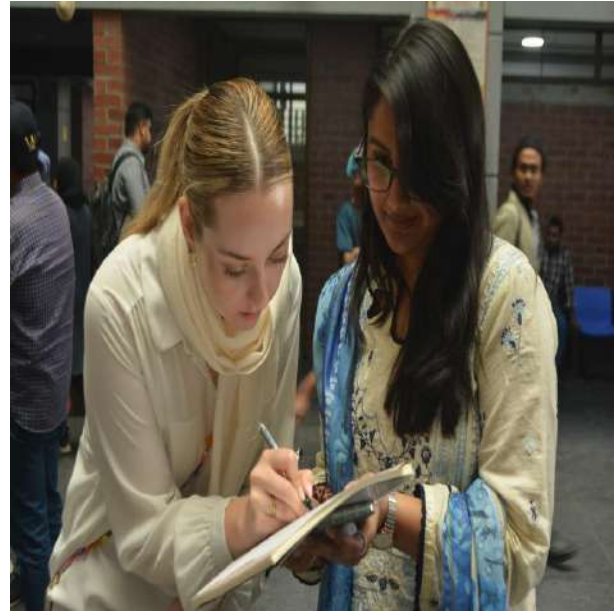
**The special guest with the volunteers at the inaugural ceremony**

**Day 01-At UAP plaza  
February 12: 9:30 AM to 10:45AM- The Morning Session**



### **The familiarization session at UAP plaza**

The Familiarization session at UAP plaza conducted by Professor Dr. Bernt Mayer, of Weiden Business School, OTH with 15 and 14 participating students from UAP and OTH respectively .UAP students introduced themselves, revealing their personality traits and unique dispositions with the visiting German participants. This was followed by a summary lecture given by Professor Mayer on personality traits as well as how one should improve oneself with the correct managerial and leadership traits and skills.



### **Knowing oneself**

#### **Afternoon session -2:00PM to 3:15PM**

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Gabriele M. Murry on *Jo Harl Window- Self Assessment Paper* and *Personal Profile System* where all students, in turn, gave presentations.





**Class with German Professors**

### **February 13: Day 02**

#### **Morning Session**

Class conducted by both Professor Mayer and Professor Gabriele where students were assigned with class works based on previous lectures. The professors evaluated each of the students' performance on presentation as well as assigned class works highlighting the latter's core strengths and areas of improvement. The professors guided and recommended the students on self-criticism for a better version of one self without being frightened and ignorant about one's weaknesses.



**The round up discussion- team in action**

At the next session, Mr. Alamzeb Farjad Ahmed, Member, Board of trustees and Professor Shahriyar Anam, DBA conducted a class on importance of effective communication skills and ways for improvement among the winter school students.



**During the same time:**

Meanwhile, the honorable board of trustees, the Vice Chancellor, the Pro-VC, the Head of departments as well as the core organizing team sat for a discussion session.





**Discussion session with the Board of Trustees, Pro-VC and Head of Depts., UAP**



**Afternoon soiree:** In the afternoon students enjoyed a colourful fair at the UAP plaza.



## February 14: Day 03

### 9:00AM to 1:30PM: Lecture Sessions

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Bernt M. Mayer on how to conduct success interviews.



Several groups were made and interviews sessions were conducted where participants were assigned to observe both the interviewer and interviewee, make notes, and assess their individual strengths and weaknesses. Later on, participants were divided in teams and a Role Play session was organized where individuals were assigned to play both the role of an interviewer and interviewee.





**The group task**



**The Winter School Class mates**

**2:00PM to 5:00PM: Shopping spree at Aarong.**

The troupe including faculties of OTH and UAP with their students visited Aarong, Tejgaon for shopping followed by high tea at a restaurant in Dhanmondi.

**February 15, 2024: Day 04**

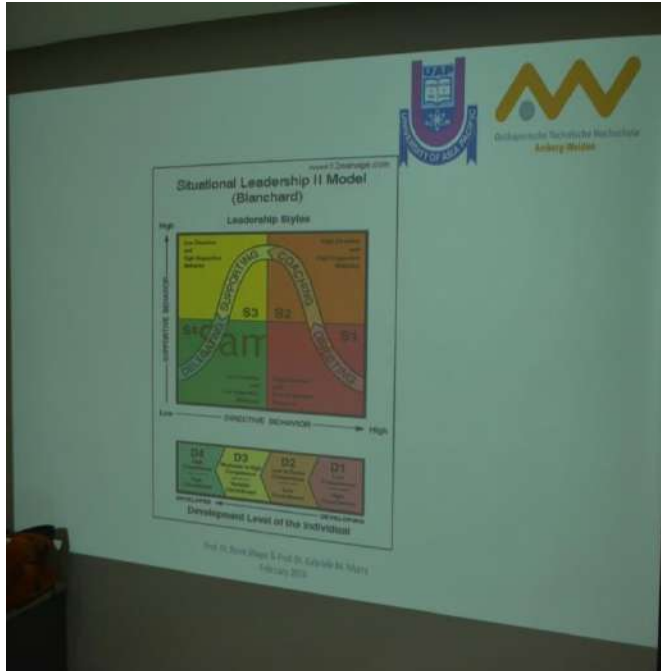
**9:00AM to 1:30PM**

**More Lecture Sessions**

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Gabriele M. Murry on: how to present yourself in the professional world and how to write the most appropriate CVs and Resumes.

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Bernt M. Mayer on: how to judge people by seeing their work ethics, how to make managerial decisions during crisis, how to lead by example to your employees and colleagues and how to solve conceptual problems. Students were later assigned with class works on the topics discussed.





The teaching contents

**2:00PM to 3:15PM**

Lecture by Professor Dr. M.A. Baqui Khalily, Dean, School of Business on financial institutions and their impacts on Micro and Macro Economy.



An enlightening session with Professor Dr. Baqui Khalily

**Afternoon Session:** Familiarization meeting at the VC conference room on 15 February, 2024

Participants: Professor Dr. Bernt Mayer, Dean, Weiden Business School, OTH and Dr. Gabriele M. Murry, Professor of Weiden Business School, Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule (OTH) Amberg-Weiden.

DBA faculty members headed by Professor Dr. M. A. Baqui Khalily, Dean of School of Business, and Dr. Jesmin Sultana ,Head, DBA , University of Asia Pacific.

A familiarization session was held between the visiting professors of Weiden Business School, OTH and the faculties of DBA UAP at the VC conference room at 1:00 PM on 15 February, 2024. The session was initiated with the faculties of DBA introducing themselves to the Professors of OTH after which a PowerPoint presentation was given by Dr. Gabriele M. Murry, introducing the Weiden Business School to the attendees.

The presentation on Weiden Business School-OTH detailed on:

- Photos and Panoramic view of the campus
- Courses offered at the Undergrad and Grad level
- Prerequisites for admission to the undergrad and Grad level
- The facility of weekend school and Start Up hubs
- The statistics of the number of faculties and enrolled students including that of foreign students (48%)

After the presentation, the floor was opened for Q/A session where the following issues were discussed:

- Prerequisites for enrollment to Under Grad, Grad as well as Tuition fee and waivers for students.
- Credit transfer arrangement for students.
- Collaboration in writing research papers, case books, future meet up in the form of seminars, symposium and workshops.
- Collaboration on student exchange, external program, etc.
- The prospects of pursuing PhD among faculty members as well as issues of work permit and prevailing living conditions at Weiden.
- A research survey to be conducted among the faculties of DBA on *Future Skill Framework required among future leaders*-as proposed by Dr. Gabriele M. Murry.



**Familiarization Session with faculties of DBA,UAP**

### **Evening -5:30PM**

Cultural program organized at the auditorium by Cultural Club, Department of Business Administration where students of UAP as well as OTH showcased their heritage, culture, language via popular folk, contemporary; songs, dances, oration and even a football match.



**The creative ensemble**



**The breath taking football match**



### **The cultural symphony**

### **February 16: Day 05**

**7:30AM to 12:30PM: Sight-seeing and tours to monumental and heritage sites.**

The faculties and students of OTH were introduced to the history, heritage and culture of Bangladesh by visiting Sriti Shoudho, Shahid Minar and Dhaka University's Curzon Hall.





**A visit to honor the martyrs-The Shahid Minar**



**The monumental Shritishoudho**





**A visit to the once –Oxford of the East-Dhaka University: Curzon Hall**





**The parliament stands tall**

**Evening 6:30PM: Certificate Awarding Ceremony & Experience Sharing and Closing Dinner.**

A certificate giving ceremony of the Winter School jointly organized by the School of Business, UAP and Weiden Business School, OTH, Germany at a renowned Buffet restaurant in Dhanmondi followed by a sumptuous dinner of Bengali delicacies and cuisine was held on the final day of the Winter School.

Among the distinguished guest present on the occasion was Mr. Md Shamsul Arefin, the Secretary of the Information and Communication Technology Division, GoB as Chief Guest and representing UAP: Architect Mahbuba Haque, Chairperson of board of trustees; Professor Dr. Qumrul Ahsan, Vice Chancellor of University of Asia Pacific and Professor Dr. M.A. Baqui Khalily, Dean of School of Business. The occasion was also attended by distinguished faculties and administrative staffs of the DBA.





**The certificate giving ceremony**



**Crest in honor of the core-management behind the successful event: to Associate Prof. Sarwar R. Chowdhury, DBA handed by the ICT Secretary, GoB; Chairperson of Board of Trustee and VC, UAP.**







**The jubilant graduating students –winter school**



**The Sumptuous dinner**



The Winter School of OTH and UAP marks the beginning of an exciting journey; a journey that transcends geographical boundaries and cultural differences. It is a journey of knowledge exchange, collaboration, and academic excellence. Two distinguished professors of Weiden Business School and 14 students from OTH and 15 students from Department of Business Administration, UAP joined the Winter School program.

The Winter School represents a unique opportunity for students and faculty members from both institutions to unite, share insights, and engage in stimulating discussions on various aspects of business and management. It serves as a platform for fostering cross-cultural understanding and building lasting connections between our two esteemed universities.

The partnership between UAP and OTH is a testament to the power of collaboration and the belief in the transformative potential of education. Through this joint effort, UAP aims to provide the students with a truly international learning experience, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in today's interconnected world.





**See you next time.**

### **Bridging Borders - A Winter School Exchange-My Winter School Diary**

In the heart of Dhaka, Bangladesh, where the bustling cityscape meets the serene banks of the Buriganga River, the University Of Asia Pacific (UAP) stood as a beacon of academic excellence. With its dedication to fostering global connections and innovative learning experiences, UAP embarked on a groundbreaking winter school program in collaboration with Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule (OTH) Amberg-Weiden, Germany.

The initiative aimed to bridge cultures and expands horizons by bringing together students from diverse backgrounds to explore the intersection of technology and sustainability in the context of winter landscapes. Among the participants was Lamisa (not her real name), a determined business school student from UAP, eager to broaden her perspective and immerse herself in the rich academic environment offered by the collaboration with OTH Amberg-Weiden.

As the winter school program commenced, students from both universities gathered at UAP plaza, their excitement palpable as they prepared for the journey ahead. Against the backdrop of Dhaka's bustling streets and vibrant markets, they embarked on a transformative educational adventure.

The curriculum of the winter school was carefully crafted to blend theoretical knowledge with practical experiences. Through a series of lectures, workshops, and hands-on projects, students delved into topics such as personality traits-The Jo Harl Window of personality awareness mapping (Joseph Luft & Harrington,1950),

Leadership styles, Situational Leadership II - Ken Blanchard, 7 Steps to a successful interview, conducting professional interviews- The STAR method (Situation, Target, Action and Result), etc.

One of the highlights of the Winter School was a collaborative project that tasked students via brainstorming ideas sessions and research, and ultimately developing and designing comprehensive and innovative solutions towards a unified learning to improve oneself overcoming weaknesses and strengthening individual strengths at differing managerial contexts and leadership perspective in both Bangladesh and Germany promoting sustainability and resilience in their respective communities.

Throughout the program, cultural exchange was also a central focus. Students had the opportunity to share their traditions, cuisine, and language, fostering mutual understanding and appreciation. Whether savoring the spicy flavors of Bangladeshi cuisine or learning traditional African folk dance, the participants embraced each other's cultures with open minds and open hearts.

As the winter school drew to a close, Lamisa reflected on the profound impact it had on her. Not only had she gained valuable insights into sustainable technologies and cross-cultural collaboration, but she had also forged lasting friendships with students from across the globe. On the final day of the program, as Lamisa bid farewell to her newfound friends from OTH Amberg-Weiden, she felt a sense of gratitude for the transformative experience provided by the winter school. With a renewed sense of purpose and a broader perspective on the world, she returned to UAP inspired to continue her journey of learning and discovery, knowing that the bonds formed and lessons learned would stay with her for a lifetime.