



Brief History of ACEF

Since 1990, ACEF has worked with BDP- our partner NGO in Bangladesh- for the education of children. Our activities began with the cooperation between Dr. Mina Marakarl and Rev. Yoshitaka Funato, which resulted in starting and operating a non-formal primary school for children who were unable to access education for various reasons.

After 30 years, we, together with BDP, have expanded our activities by operating vocational educational schools, scholarship programs for secondary education, and micro-financing businesses to support women.

When ACEF was established in 1990, there was only a 35% of adult literacy rate in Bangladesh. The founder of ACEF, Rev. Yoshitaka Hunato, who supported Bangladesh through the insurance/medical NGO at the time, and Dr. Mina Marakarl, felt the need for people to get a foundational education which resulted in starting primary education programs. This was due to the fact that people in Bangladesh were not able to prevent illness or receive health education since they could not read the description of medicines or the precautionary statements.

Dr. Marakarl initiated an educational program named "Sunflower Educational Program" in Dhaka in the International NGO World Concern. Also, Rev. Funato founded ACEF in Japan. Mr. Mikio Sumiya, a Tokyo University professor, was inaugurated as the first ACEF president as ACEF started the fundraising. In 1999, the "Sunflower Education Program" was renamed "Basic Development Partners (BDP)", and was registered as an NGO by the government of Bangladesh.



Timeline

1990	SEP activities started in Dhaka district. (10 classes of non-formal kindergarten) ACEF founder general assembly was held (Chairman Mikio Sumiya, Managing Director/Executive Director, Yoshitaka Funato)
1991	The 1st ACEF seminar was held The 1st Bangladesh non-formal schools visiting study tour was held ACEF established non-formal kindergarten and elementary school in slum district of Dhaka and Pubail district Mother literacy classes were held in Mirpur district and Pubail district
1992	Female students scholarship started Non-formal kindergarten and elementary schools were established in Jamalpur district
1993	Activities started in the Khatira district
1996	The first non-formal elementary school students graduated Male vocational training school opened Advancement scholarship for excellent high school graduates started
1997	ACEF meeting in Yamanashi inaugurated Female vocational training school began
1998	170 million yen as the rescue donation was collected for the biggest flood in 20 century in Bangladesh ACEF started to rebuild schools that were destroyed by the flood
1999	Activities in the village of ethnic minorities, Garo, started SEP became a registered NGO by the government of Bangladesh and was renamed to BDP
2000	ACEF 10th anniversary video 「花のような学校」「輝く瞳は希望の光」 Vocational training schools opened in Pubail district
2002	Activities in Netrokona district started
2003	The ACEF president, Mikio Sumiya passed away. Mr.Yasuo Furuya, the professor at International Christian University, inaugurated to be the next ACEF president
2004	ACEF registered as Non-Profit Organization SEP founder, Mira Marakarl passed away
2006	Tohoku ACEF meeting inaugurated
2007	8 schools were destroyed by the large cyclone 570 million yen were donated, and ACEF repaired facilities
2009	The president of ACEF, Mr.Yasuo Furuya inaugurated as an advisor Rev. Yoshitaka Funato inaugurated to be a chairman BDP training center was built in Pubail district
2013	Senior study tour was held The chairman of ACEF, Rev.Yoshitaka Funato inaugurated as an advisor. Mr.Yoshiaki Ogura inaugurated to be a charman.
2015	Vocational training started in Bakshiganj district
2016	Study tour was discontinued due to the terrorism which occurred in Dhaka
2017	ACEF became a certified NGO obtained the certification Bangladesh study tour in Japan was held
2019	Mr. Izuru Aratani was inaugurated to be a charman Bangladesh study tour was held for the first time in 4 years
2020	30th anniversary event was held ACEF obtained Good Governance certification

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