

## **Panel Discussion Notes on Investment Climate**

### **Message of Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, Dean, FBA during the signing ceremony of the MOU with IFC held at Westin Hotel, 16 June 2009**

The rudiments of Investment in terms of concepts, theories and modes of application or practices are better learned in the classroom. This allows the students to understand and appreciate the concept. Given the various strategies both theoretically and practicability, the students are able to assimilate what is the appropriate if not the best approach. It is in this context that the role of the university is deemed important. Tapping the university with competent and experienced faculty, relevant and responsive curriculum, and state-of-the-art facilities, the concept of investment as a tool for promoting financial growth and development becomes more meaningful and challenging. The investment climate in a developing country like Bangladesh is conducive and promises enormous opportunities for sustainable business and economic stability. It needs sound policy actions, infrastructure support and other resources from the government to enhance the climate. The trilogy approach adopted in this project such as: curriculum development and instruction, research and actual learning experience through student internship is a sound and logical decision of the funding organizations to make the project truly feasible and doable. The end results would be lasting and the ripple effects would be more beneficial to both the academe and the business sectors with the country's development thrusts being pursued with great deal of efforts and concerns. The American International University-Bangladesh's participation in this laudable undertaking is indeed a challenge and an opportunity to share its expertise in the field of business and economics. AIUB has an undergraduate and graduate programs, BBA and MBA/EMBA in business with majors in Finance, Accounting, Economics, Marketing, International Business, Management, HRM, MIS, Operations Management and Quantitative and Hotel and Tourism Management. In addition to the Engineering, Architecture, Computer Science, Arts and Social Sciences. I am pleased to inform the body that the university has established the Center for Research and Excellence (ACRE) and an internal quality assurance cell (AQAC) to spearhead in the accreditation of our MBA program which is now undergoing an accreditation process with an international accrediting organization from the Philippines. The university has passed already the application status and we are now moving to the next stage of conducting an institution self-survey, a complex and tedious process but we have completed this week the task with the voluminous report and sent to PAASCU after a year long preparations. This will prove that the quality and excellence we envision in our academic programs can be objectively measured by an international accrediting organization based on the 7 areas of development. The University Grants Commission has been supporting the university in this endeavor. If I am not mistaken, this will be the first among the private universities in Bangladesh. We expect the PAASCU Team to visit the university in August 2009 to validate our report after which the PAASCU Board will grant the university with the much coveted accreditation status or level. In return, we will share our success to our valued stakeholders and partners. With strong commitment and shared responsibility, the success of this project is at hand. Thank you and good day to all.