



# TECH CONNECT

Empowering Youth to  
**Become Global Citizen**



A Publication by  
**Grow Your Reader Foundation (GYRF)**  
In Collaboration with  
**Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU)**

# MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, BNCU



Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) gladly acknowledges and appreciates the successful completion of the project – “Tech Connect: Empowering Youth to Become Global Citizen”. In a world that is almost at the peak of technological advancement, and a world that awaits abled future young leaders who will lead and build it as a more respectful, compassionate, empathetic – is only possible when we can infuse the spirit of understanding each other’s values and culture. This is where this project becomes really important.

We have seen young students from different countries coming together in a common platform through this project where they have enthusiastically prepared a small module of their own to uphold their culture and identity and spontaneously participated in the online exchange programmes. Besides, students from different educational institutions in Bangladesh were provided hands-on orientation through workshops by GYRF. This, I believe, facilitated a much-needed inward introspection among some inquisitive young minds of Bangladesh.

I believe, this is the beginning of a continuous journey to a new world of hopes and aspirations.

**Ms. Subvina Monir Chithi**  
Deputy Secretary General, BNCU



# MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER & CEO, GYRF



"Tech Connect: Empowering Youth to Become Global Citizen" project is about young people discovering who they are and how they connect with the world. Through technology and creative collaboration, this project helps youth explore identity, how it is shaped by culture, history, beliefs, and personal experiences. Identity is not fixed; it grows and changes as we learn from others. By representing Asia through Bangladesh, we bring our stories, values, and perspectives into a global conversation. Technology allows us to share ideas, learn together, and celebrate differences while building mutual respect.

"Tech Connect: Empowering Youth to Become Global Citizens" project encourages young people to be confident in their identities, open to diversity, and responsible global citizens who believe in empathy, inclusion, and positive change.

## **Sadia Jafrin**

Founder & CEO, Grow Your Reader Foundation (GYRF)



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

## 1. Introduction

Grow Your Reader Foundation (GYRF) initiated the project that emphasized on intercultural learning, global citizenship, and youth leadership, titled as Tech Connect: Empowering Youth to Become Global Citizens with the support from Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU). This initiative is a year-long (Nov 2024 - Nov 2025) intercultural learning journey designed to promote Global Citizenship, Youth Leadership, and Intercultural Exchange among young people by engaging 1,800+ students, 50+ teachers and 14 partner institutions from eight countries across 3 continents.

## 2. Project Objectives

- Promoting intercultural understanding
- Encouraging creative expression
- Strengthening digital collaboration skills
- Providing a platform for youth-led discussions to create an unique identity
- Enhancing global citizenship awareness

## 3. Project Timeline



## Partner schools from Bangladesh



Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were then signed between Grow Your Reader Foundation and each of these schools



Photo: MoU signing between Grow Your Reader Foundation and Uttara High School and College - on Feb 6, 2025



Photo: MoU signing between Grow Your Reader Foundation and Scholastica:Senior campus, Mirpur - on Feb 4, 2025



Photo: MoU signing between Grow Your Reader Foundation and LORDS - An English Medium School - on Feb 12, 2025



Photo: MoU signing between Grow Your Reader Foundation and Australian International School - on Feb 18, 2025



Photo: MoU signing between Grow Your Reader Foundation and ABC International School - on Feb 23, 2025

## Partner Institutions (International):



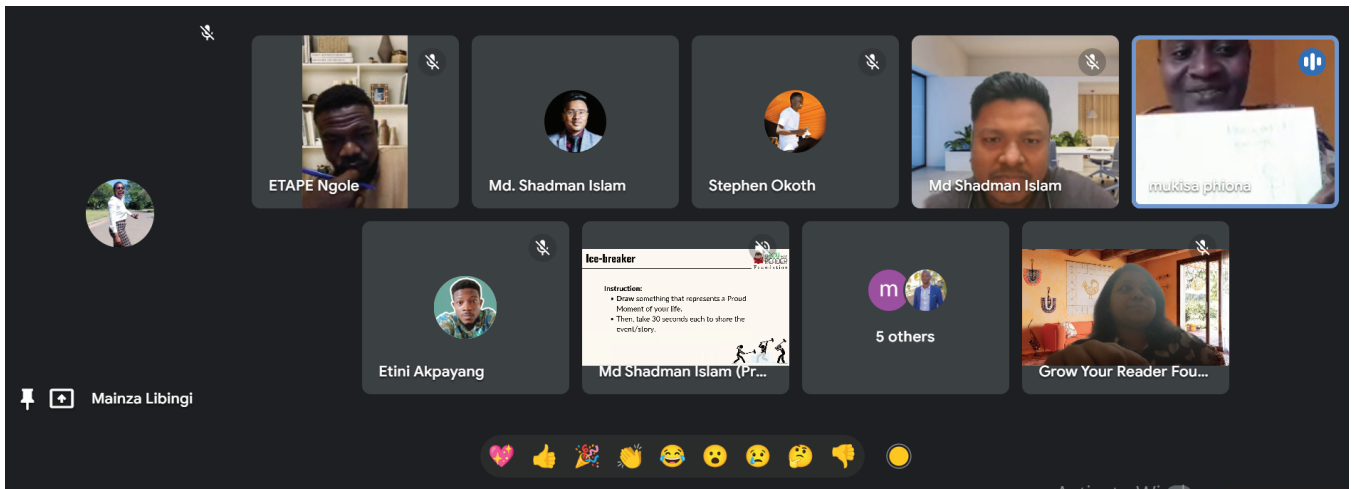


Photo: Briefing Meeting after completing the MoU signing between Grow Your Reader Foundation and International Participant Organizations

# LEARNING MODULE DEVELOPMENT

One of the key components of the project is the Learning Bangladesh Module, a cultural reference book designed to help Bangladeshi and International students connect with the roots of Bangladesh. Elita Karim, Musician & Journalist and Former Editor, Arts & Entertainment and Star Youth, The Daily Star contributed as the editor and consultant for this development.



Photo: Validation Meeting for the Learning Bangladesh Module at the office of Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU)

On March 9, 2025, a validation meeting was then held at the office of Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) with representatives from BNCU, NCTB, NAEM, the Institute of Education and Research (University of Dhaka), and GYRF.

Likely to Learning Module on Bangladesh, other participant organizations also developed Learning Modules on their countries.



A Land of Harmony and Resilience

The book on Bangladesh explores a nation that stands at the crossroads of tradition, creativity, resilience and progress. It takes readers through the country's inspiring journey - from its Independence war to the progression till 2025 that shaped its global identity. The book offers a holistic understanding of how Bangladesh preserves its cultural depth while embracing modern growth.

The historical chapters describe the resilience of a people united by language and freedom. Education and innovation sections present Bangladesh's commitment to equity and technology-driven learning as well as prepare the learners to become global citizens. Readers can learn about the beauty of the country's diverse cultural expressions - Baul folk songs, classical dance, Jamdani weaving, and the colorful festivities of Pohela Boishakh. Literature and art flourish through the works of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, and Zainul Abedin, while cuisine reflects the warmth of Bengali hospitality with dishes like Biryani, Pitha, and Hilsa Fish. Fashion connects traditional fabrics with modern trends, and sports, especially cricket, illustrate national unity and enthusiasm. Sundarban, rickshaw and rickshaw paint are a few of many UNESCO Heritages in Bangladesh mentioned in this book.

This book portrays Bangladesh as a land where culture and religions coexist, where art and education nurture progress, and where hope continues to inspire future generations. It invites readers to experience a country that values its roots while boldly shaping its place in the global community.

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**Sadia Jafrin**  
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**Mehedi Mosaddek Hossain**  
 Senior Visualizer, Bullseye



**A Journey Through Canada:**  
**STORIES OF A GREAT LAND**

The book on Canada presents a vivid exploration of a country defined by diversity, creativity, and inclusion. It introduces readers to Canada's historical development - from its Indigenous heritage and European influences to the building of a multicultural nation that embraces unity through diversity. The book celebrates Canada's achievements in education, innovation, and culture, providing a lens into how a vast land connects its people through shared values and respect.

Readers will discover Canada's strong commitment to education as a foundation for social and economic progress. The arts and culture sections highlight Canada's creative richness, featuring Indigenous crafts, French-Canadian literature, and internationally recognized artists and musicians such as Joni Mitchell and Drake. Festivals like Canada Day, Winterlude, and the Calgary Stampede showcase the country's joyous spirit, while its cuisine reflects multicultural flavors - from maple syrup treats to diverse global dishes. The sections on innovation and sustainability illustrate Canada's leadership in technology and environmental stewardship. The inclusion of hockey, figure skating, and winter sports symbolizes national pride and togetherness.

This book portrays Canada as a harmonious blend of nature and modernity, where cultural diversity and creativity thrive side by side. It invites readers to experience a country that continues to inspire the world through knowledge, compassion, and collective vision.

**Author:**

Ji Qi  
Teacher, Granum School

**Developed by:**





## The Pearl of Africa

The Unique and Beautiful Tapestry of Uganda's Food, Cultures, and Dances

The book on Uganda introduces readers to the “Pearl of Africa,” a country renowned for its beauty, resilience, and cultural vibrancy. It opens with Uganda’s rich historical narrative, from ancient kingdoms like Buganda and Bunoyoro to its path toward independence and modernization. This introduction sets the tone for understanding Uganda’s identity as a nation shaped by heritage, knowledge, and community.

Education and innovation stand out as powerful drivers of progress, with Uganda investing in literacy, technology, and entrepreneurship to empower its youth. The book highlights the nation’s rich artistic landscape – traditional dances, folk songs, and visual art, alongside contemporary expressions in literature and music. Festivals like Nyege Nyege and Martyrs’ Day reflect Uganda’s unity in diversity, while cuisine such as matoke, rolex, and groundnut stew showcase everyday life and hospitality. The section on fashion reveals a blend of traditional fabrics and modern designs, while sports, particularly athletics, represent determination and pride. The natural wonders of Uganda, from Lake Victoria and Murchison Falls to mountain gorillas, add ecological and cultural depth.

This book portrays Uganda as a nation full of life and creativity, where tradition and progress coexist in harmony and where people work together to build a future of sustainability and hope.

**Author:**

**Mukisa Phiona**  
Executive director, Leo Edupath Initiative

**Developed by:**





## The Giant of Africa

The book on Kenya captures the essence of a country where heritage and modern ambition merge seamlessly. It begins by narrating Kenya's transformation from ancient civilizations and colonial resistance to a proudly independent nation. Readers are guided through Kenya's journey of growth, resilience, and unity, showcasing the foundations of its national identity.

The education chapters focus on Kenya's Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), designed to empower learners with skills and creativity for a changing world. The cultural sections celebrate Kenya's ethnic diversity – from the vibrant traditions of the Maasai and Kikuyu to the Swahili coastal influences that enrich the nation's art, literature, and architecture. The book offers glimpses of Kenya's musical rhythms, dances, and fashion trends that blend traditional craftsmanship with modern expression. Readers can also explore Kenya's culinary delights, including ugali, sukuma wiki, and nyama choma, as well as its world-renowned wildlife heritage in places like the Maasai Mara and Amboseli. Innovation and environmental sustainability feature strongly, illustrating Kenya's growing role in African technology and conservation leadership.

Ultimately, the book portrays Kenya as a nation of creativity and courage, where cultural pride fuels progress and the spirit of community shapes a dynamic and hopeful future.

**Author:**

Stephen Okoth  
Teacher, Youth for Children

**Developed by:**





# ZIMBABWE

The book on Zimbabwe offers readers a profound understanding of a nation with deep historical roots and remarkable cultural richness. It opens with the story of Great Zimbabwe, an ancient stone city that symbolizes the country's long-standing civilization and ingenuity. The narrative traces Zimbabwe's evolution through colonialism, independence, and its continuous journey towards renewal.

Education emerges as a central theme, highlighting Zimbabwe's commitment to literacy and learning as tools for empowerment. The cultural and artistic chapters capture the nation's musical spirit, from mbira and marimba sounds to modern Afro-jazz, and the sculptures and paintings that have gained international recognition. Readers also discover traditional festivals and ceremonies that strengthen community bonds, as well as cuisine centered on dishes like sadza, peanut stew, and roasted corn. The book explores Zimbabwe's fashion scene, innovation in youth entrepreneurship, and sports, particularly football and cricket, as reflections of unity and resilience. Nature's beauty - spanning Victoria Falls to Hwange National Park - adds depth to the country's story.

This book celebrates Zimbabwe as a land of endurance and creativity, where Education, Culture, and Art continue to shape a hopeful vision for the future.

**Author:**

Edson Dongo  
Director, Omni Impact

**Developed by:**





## A Land of Diversity and Harmony

The book on Cameroon highlights a country often called “Africa in Miniature” for its breathtaking diversity in landscapes, languages, and traditions. It begins by tracing Cameroon’s journey from precolonial kingdoms to independence, revealing a vibrant tapestry of history and resilience. Readers are introduced to a nation where over 200 ethnic groups coexist peacefully, united by pride in their cultural and linguistic heritage

The book explores Cameroon’s bilingual education system, its emphasis on learning, and its creative industries that preserve traditional arts while nurturing innovation. The cultural chapters showcase the rhythmic beats of Makossa and Bikutsi music, intricate beadwork, and the colorful attire that distinguishes regional identities. Festivals such as Ngondo, Nguon, and FENAC celebrate heritage and community spirit. Cameroon’s cuisine - featuring ndolé, puff-puff, and plantain-based dishes - illustrates its fusion of African and global influences. The book also highlights the growing impact of Cameroonian literature, fashion, and sports, particularly football, which unites the nation under one flag.

In essence, this book captures Cameroon as a living mosaic - a country where tradition meets transformation, and where creativity, knowledge, and unity build a bright and enduring future.

**Author:**

Etape Ngole  
Founder, Cameroon Youth Initiative For Development

**Developed by:**





# NIGERIA

## Giant of Africa

The book on Nigeria presents an energetic portrait of a nation whose creativity and cultural influence extend far beyond its borders. It begins by tracing Nigeria's historical path from ancient kingdoms like Benin and Oyo to independence and modernization. This introduction sets the stage for understanding a country celebrated for its resilience, diversity, and innovation.

The educational and innovation chapters highlight Nigeria's efforts to strengthen access to learning and entrepreneurship, showing how technology and youth-led initiatives drive national progress. The cultural sections burst with rhythm and color, exploring Nigeria's globally renowned music and film industries – Afrobeats, Nollywood, and traditional storytelling. Festivals such as the Osun-Osogbo and Eyo showcase Nigeria's spiritual and artistic heritage, while cuisine – jollof rice, egusi soup, and suya – brings the nation's diverse flavors to life. The fashion chapters illustrate Nigeria's creativity through Ankara prints and Aso Oke designs that blend modern elegance with tradition. Literature from Chinua Achebe to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and sports achievements, particularly in football, underline Nigeria's cultural and intellectual strength.

This book reveals Nigeria as a beacon of talent and persistence, where art, knowledge, and innovation continuously shape a vibrant and confident national identity.

### Author:

Blessing Tom  
Founder and Program Manager,  
Tom Eddie Blessing Foundation

### Developed by:



# PROJECT INCEPTION AND DISSEMINATION CEREMONY

Project Inception and Dissemination Ceremony was held on April 29, 2025 at International Mother Language Institute with 90 participants. This event also marked the launch and distribution of the Learning Bangladesh Module.

Representatives from UNESCO, various embassies, educational institutions, and participating schools and organizations also joined the event. Bangladeshi participants attended in person, while international schools joined virtually. Editor of the Learning Module Ms. Elita Karim, Musician and Journalist also joined online.



*Photo: Project leads of International organizations joined virtually and Bangladeshi schools joined in-person*

Md Humayun Kabir, Additional Secretary (Development), Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education graced the event as the Chief Guest.

One of the most exciting moments was the unveiling of the Learning Module: “BANGLADESH – A Land of Harmony and Resilience”



# WORKSHOPS IN BANGLADESHI SCHOOLS

We organized in-person workshops at all five participating schools in Bangladesh to deepen student engagement and the understanding of the project. These sessions reached over 600 students and served as their official onboarding to the project.

**Scholastica: Senior Campus, Mirpur – 280 Students**    **Australian International School – 48 Students**



*Photo: Workshop at Scholastica: Senior Campus, Mirpur – on May 3, 2025*



*Photo: Workshop at Australian International School – on May 4, 2025*

**ABC International School – 136 Students**



*Photo: Workshop at ABC International School- on May 4, 2025*

**Uttara High School and College – 110 Students**



*Photo: Workshop at Uttara High School and College – on May 14, 2025*

**LORDS – An English Medium School – 54 Students**



*Photo: Workshop at LORDS – An English Medium School – On May 15, 2025*

During the workshops, the students learned about the purpose of the project and their role in it, explored the module and reflected on their cultural heritage, and discussed what it means to be a responsible, empathetic global citizen.

# ONLINE CULTURAL EXCHANGE SESSIONS

The Online Cultural Exchange segment was one of the most vibrant and heartwarming parts of the project. These spaces allowed students from different countries to meet virtually, share their unique cultures, and develop meaningful connections that transcend geographical boundaries.

## Moments of Online Exchange Spaces:

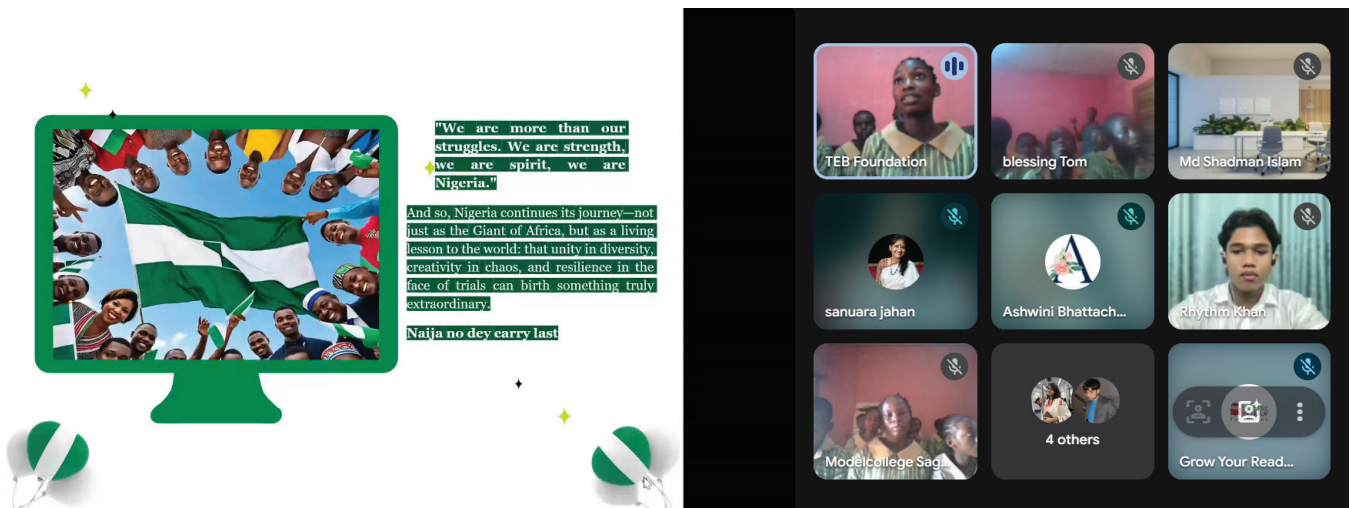


Photo: Online exchange space between Scholastica and Tom Eddie Blessing Foundation

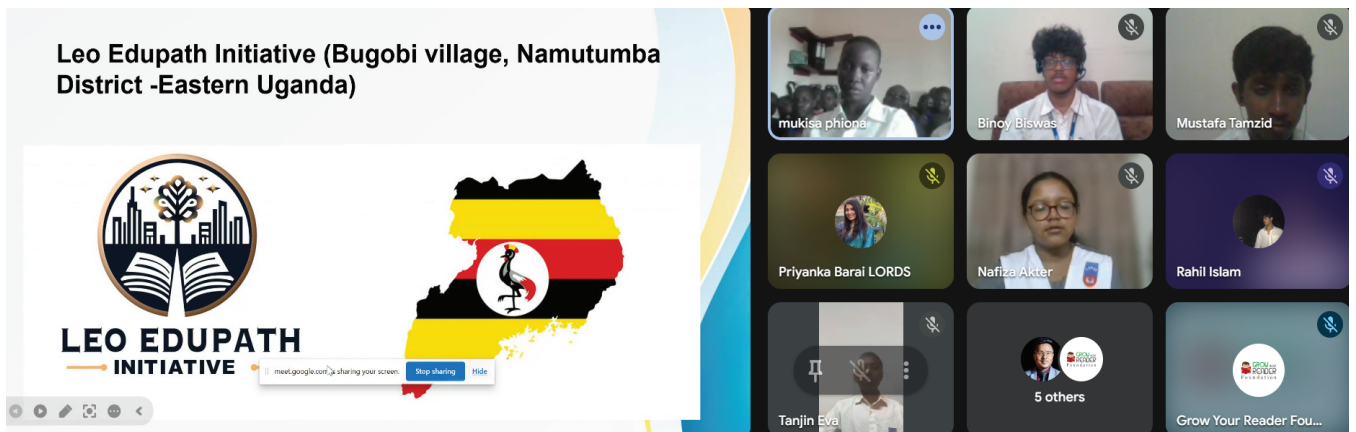


Photo: Online exchange space between Australian International School and Leo Edupath Initiative



Photo: Online exchange space between LORDS An English Medium School and Leo Edupath Initiative

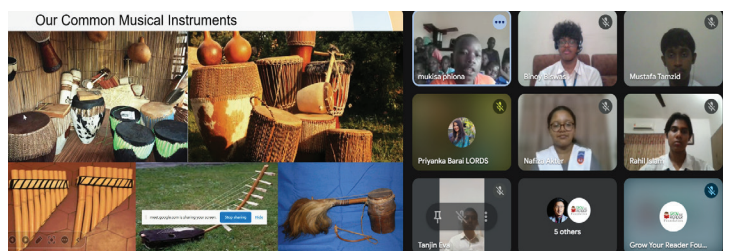


Photo: Online exchange space between Australian International School and Leo Edupath Initiative

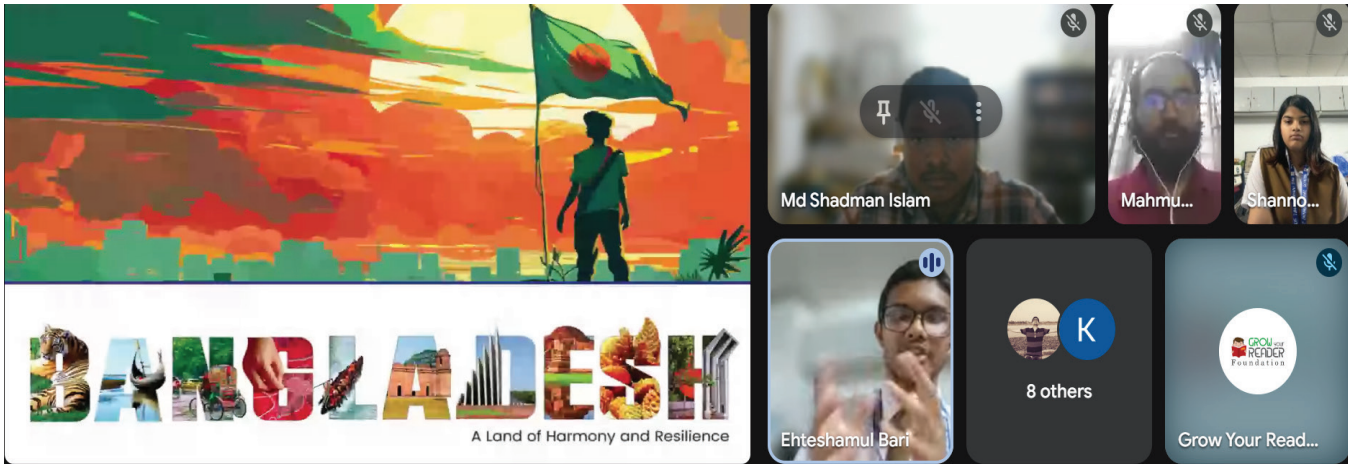


Photo: Online exchange space between ABC International School and Teach for Nigeria



Photo: Online exchange space between Uttara High School & College and Tom Eddie Blessing Foundation

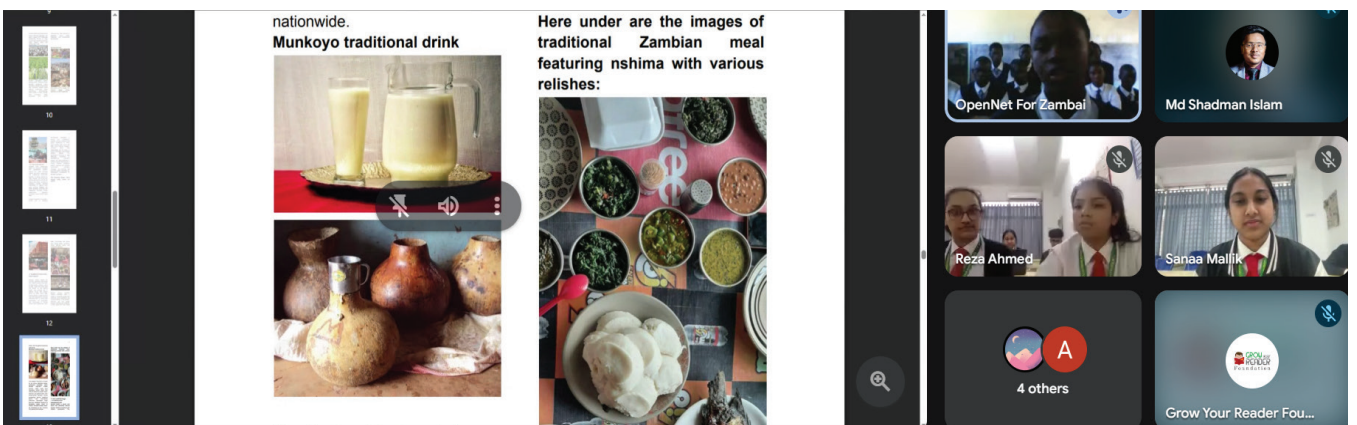


Photo: Online exchange space between LORDS - An English Medium School and Opennet for All Zambia



Photo: Online exchange space between Scholastica and Cameroon Youth Initiative for Development

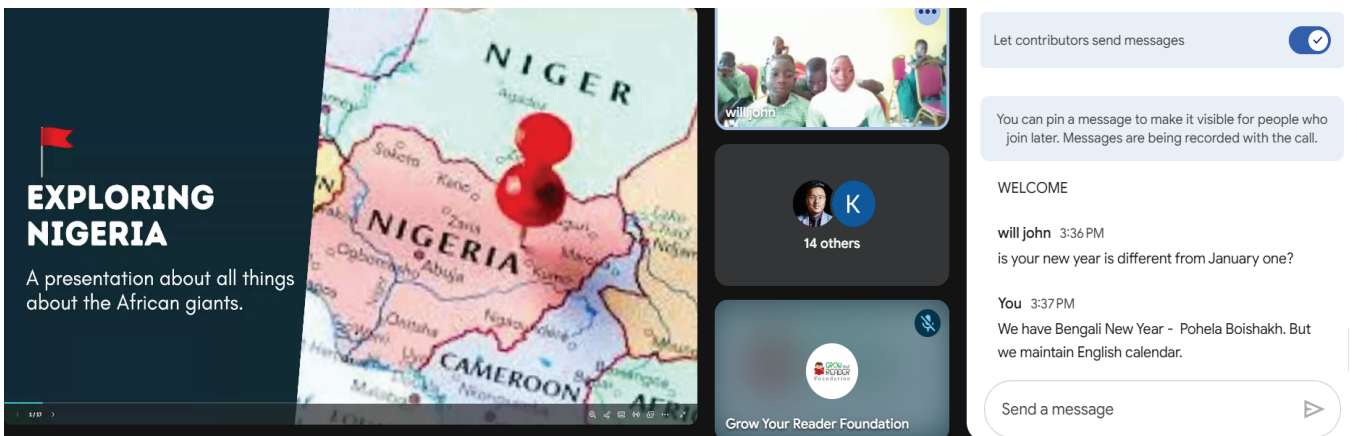


Photo: Online exchange space between LORDS - An English Medium School and Teach for Nigeria



Photo: Online exchange space between Australian International School and Opennet for All Zambia

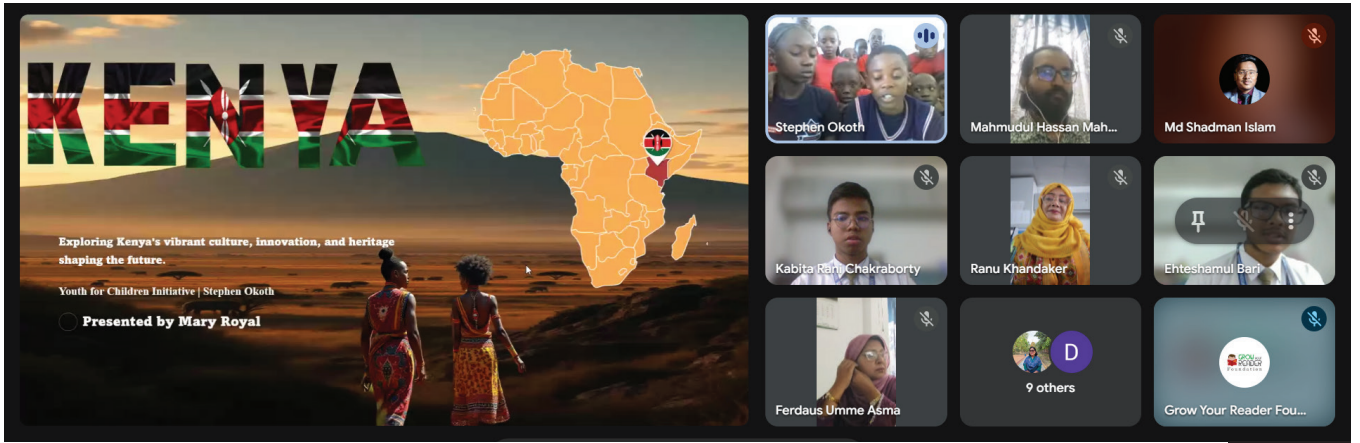


Photo: Online exchange space between ABC International School and Youth for Children

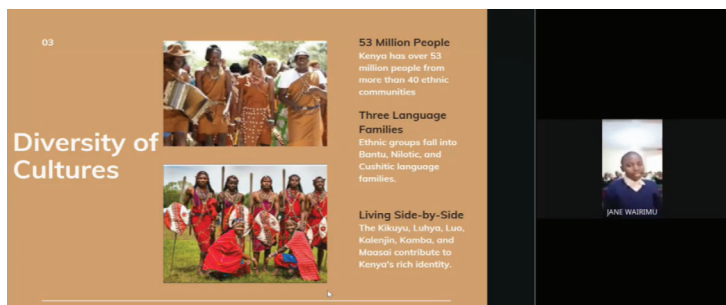


Photo: Online exchange space between Australian International School and A Place for Grace Academy



Photo: Online exchange space between Australian International School and A Place for Grace Academy



Photo: Online exchange space between ABC International School and Granum School

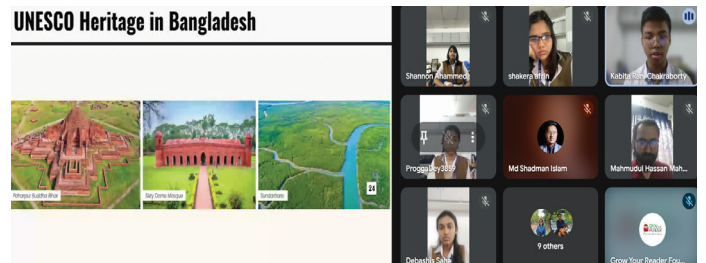


Photo: Online exchange space between ABC International School and Omni Impact



Photo: Online exchange space between LORDS – An English Medium School and Tom Eddie Blessing Foundation



Photo: Online exchange space between Australian International School and Omni Impact

# FINAL EXHIBITION

The Final Exhibition of “Tech Connect: Empowering Youth to Become Global Citizens” has been the occasion to celebrate the culmination of our intercultural learning journey that connected young minds across continents. This exhibition showcased the creativity, collaboration, and cultural understanding that emerged as youth participants. The participants showcased these through different forms of traditional performances like Music, Drama, dance and so on.

Representatives from UNESCO, various embassies, educational institutions, and participating schools and organizations also joined the event. Ms. Subvina Monir Chithi, Deputy Secretary General, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) graced the event as the chief guest. Ms. Susan Vize, Head of Office, UNESCO Dhaka enriched the event with her presence as the Guest of Honor. The event was chaired by Sadia Jafrin, Founder and CEO, Grow Your Reader Foundation (GYRF).



*Photo: Performance of Uttara High School and College on the history and resilience of Bangladesh*



*Photo: ABC International School is performing on Art, Music and Literature of Bangladesh*



*Photo: Australian International School is performing on Geography, climate, season and food of Bangladesh*



*Photo: LORDS – An English Medium School is performing on Art, Music and Literature of Bangladesh*



*Photo: Australian International School is receiving the Award and Certificates*



*Photo: Scholastica: Senior Campus, Mirpur is receiving the Award and Certificates*



Photo: LORDS - An English Medium School is receiving the Award and Certificates



Photo: Online exchange space between LORDS - An English Medium School and Leo Edupath Initiative



Photo: Uttara High School and College is receiving the Award and Certificates

Through this exhibition, we celebrated the collaborative spirit that has united youth from across Continents. It was more than a showcase - it was a testament to what's possible when young people lead with curiosity, compassion, and purpose. As we conclude this journey, we look forward to future generations to learn, create, and act for a more connected and sustainable world.

## IMPACT SUMMARY

**8**  
countries

**14**  
institutions

**7**  
learning modules

**14**  
performances

**17**  
online exchange spaces

**50+**  
teachers involved

**1,800**  
student participants

**1000+**  
in-person engagement

**70,000+**  
online views



# SPECIAL THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## List:

- Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO
- Bangladeshi Partner Institutions: i) Uttara High School and College, ii) ABC International School, iii) Australian International School, iv) LORDS – An English Medium School and v) Scholastica (Senior Campus, Mirpur)
- International Partner Institutions: i) Granum School (Canada), ii) Youth for Children (Kenya), iii) Cameroon Youth Initiative for Development (Cameroon), iv) Leo Edupath Initiative (Uganda), v) Tom Eddie Blessing Foundation (Nigeria), vi) Teach For Nigeria/Alaye High School (Nigeria), vii) A place for Grace Academy (Kenya), viii) OpenNet For All Zambia (Zambia), ix) Omni Impact (Zimbabwe)
- Bullseye (Advertising Agency)
- Press: Channel i, News 24, The Daily Star, Prothom Alo, Jugantor, Dhaka Tribune, Dhaka Stream, Jugantor, DBC News
- Editor Contributors, Authors of Learning Bangladesh Module
- GYRF Nextfighter and Ambassadors (Volunteer)





# TECH CONNECT










Empowering Youth to  
Become Global Citizen

## BUILDING INNATE READER TO BECOME A LEADER



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