



Temple deplores significant absence of science in higher education

Staff Correspondent

Country Representative of the World Bank in Dhaka Frederick T. Temple has said that the country's higher education is heavily dominated by the subjects of liberal arts compared to the areas of applied science, technology and agriculture.

Quoting a task-force report, scheduled to be released soon, on 'global approaches to higher education challenges', Temple said that the outdated education policy of the country was mainly responsible for improper tracking of the higher education seekers.

"Relatively lesser number of students feel attracted to the job-oriented and applied science subjects despite the higher rate of unemployment among the liberal arts graduates," he observed.

He was addressing the inaugural session of a two-day workshop on "Higher Education Roundtable" at a hotel on Wednesday morning.

Minister for Education ASHK Sadique inaugurated the two-day workshop as the chief guest while Secretary of the Ministry of Education Dr. Saadat Hossain presided over the function.

The Education Minister said that the quality of the country's higher education needed to be

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Temple deplores

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improved to the world-level particularly keeping in mind the challenges of the new millennium.

The minister said that the country's development was heavily dependent on the institutionally developed eligible human resources. He blamed the post-liberation political instability as one of the prime causes for the poorer quality of education that again coincided with the absence of qualified faculty members.

"How can a country expect increased foreign investment when it's unable to provide adequate skilled manpower," the minister said while explaining the grounds of world-class education in the country.

ASHK Sadeque emphasized the need for eliminating discrimination between the expenses of the private and public universities.

"Brilliant students may be brought under education loan programme run by different public sector banks, granted financial assistance and scholarships," the minister observed.

The roundtable is a part of South Asian Higher Education Initiatives undertaken by the World Bank. "The initiatives has led to national-level dialogues in Pakistan and Sri Lanka earlier this month and now in Bangladesh," Temple said while giving the background and over view of the workshop.

The workshop will prepare a set of recommendations for a pragmatic reformation of the country's higher education sector.

More than 60 education experts, Vice-chancellors of different universities, economists, policy makers and researchers are participating in the two-day workshop.