

- To offer fellowship/scholarship to the scholars at home and abroad to conduct research on language related aspects;
- To offer honour and confer upon awards for outstanding contribution to promotion, preservation and standardisation of mother languages;
- To build, maintain and conduct an archive and a museum of the writing systems of the world;
- To establish a library of international standard and a media channel for language, etc;

UNESCO CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTE

The agreement to recognise International Mother Language Institute as a Category 2 Institute of UNESCO was signed on 12 January, 2016.

Type and nature of cooperation sought

- Knowledge sharing;
- Participation in activities/projects arranged by UNESCO;
- Sharing of information and expertise with the member States to encourage promotion and preservation of mother languages;
- Mutual visit of language teachers, students, researchers and management officials to facilitate the development of human resources;
- Mutual initiative to promote universal right of man for mother tongue and right to education through own language;
- Collaboration in research and study for development of all languages to enhance basic education and culture in a diversified world.

PUBLICATIONS

- Memorabilia for International Mother Language Day
- *IMLI Newsletter* (Bangla and English)
- *IMLI Journal : Matribhasha* (Bangla) and *Mother Language* (English)
- Various publications in language related aspects

TRAINING

- Five-day training programme on the proper use of standard Bangla language for Government Primary

and Secondary School teachers as well as officials of different Government organisations.

- Thirty trainees per batch. Two batches for each of the three categories per year. So, in total 180 trainees to be trained every year as of now.
- Resource persons include reputed university professors, Government high officials and in-house faculties.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- **Establishment of International Mother Language Institute Project (1st Phase):** Construction up to 3rd floor of the IMLI building with foundation of 12 floors was completed on 18 February, 2010.

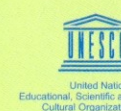
ON GOING PROJECTS

- **Establishment of International Mother Language Institute Project (2nd Phase):** Construction of the Institute building upto 6th floor, establishment of virtual archive and museum and library automation.
- **Ethno-linguistic Survey of Bangladesh:** Aims at attaining an actual scenario of the languages and culture of the ethnic groups of Bangladesh.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

- The Preservation and Documentations of Languages, Culture and History of Ethnic Groups of Bangladesh and the Establishment of an Archive
- Dialects of Bangladesh: Documentation and Preservation Project
- Ethno-linguistic Survey of Bangladesh (Amended)
- Development of an Electronic Bangla Thesaurus for MS Word
- Learning of Top Ten Languages Project
- Publication of Standard Bangla Pronunciation Dictionary for Printed and Electronic Media
- Establishment of International Mother Language Institute Project (3rd Phase)

The above mentioned activities and proposed projects would help to develop proficient human resources and cutting edge instruments and softwares that will help IMLI to expand its operational sphere throughout Bangladesh and beyond the country.



INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (IMLI)
(A UNESCO Category 2 Institute)

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BACKGROUND

The Immortal 21 February was declared the International Mother Language Day by the United Nations on 17 November, 1999 to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by the people of the world. As a result of this recognition, the glory of the sacrifice of the Bangla language movement activists for the preservation of the honour and dignity of their mother language has spread worldwide. Speakers of mother languages, irrespective of nation, faith, colour and creed, have become inspired and are now engaged in the preservation, development and standardisation of their mother languages.

Canadian expatriates, late Rafiqul Islam and Abdus Salam and a multinational and multilingual organisation of Canada, *The Mother Language Lovers of the World* played an active role at the preliminary level to achieve this recognition. Real success at the later stages of this noble initiative came as a result of the timely and prompt steps taken by Sheikh Hasina, the then Honourable Prime Minister and daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation.

The Honourable Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the International Mother Language Institute at Shahid Captain Mansur Ali Sarani, 1/Ka, Segunbagicha, Dhaka on 15 March, 2001. The then Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi A. Annan was present at that historical occasion. The Honourable Prime Minister inaugurated the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) building on the International Mother Language Day, 2010.

Following that historic epoch International Mother Language Institute is now working with specific mission, vision and target. Recently this institute has been endowed with the prestigious recognition of a UNESCO Category-2 Institute.

LEGAL STATUS

The Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament) passed the International Mother Language Act on 12 October, 2010. The proposed Institute was established by a Gazette Notification (Extraordinary Supplement) published on 27 January 2011.

GOVERNANCE

The Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is the Chief Patron of the

Institute. The Institute is a statutory body with a Governing Board and a Secretariat. The Hon'ble Minister for Education acts as the Chairman of the Governing Board while the Director General of the Institute functions as the member-secretary.

MANPOWER

IMLI has 98 approved posts with 17 first class officers [1 DG (contract/deputation), 2 Directors (deputation), 4 Deputy Directors (deputation), 8 Assistant Directors, 1 Programmer and 1 Translator (direct appointment)]. At present 11 officers and 31 staff are working. Appointment of the rest of the manpower is under process.

IMLI AT A GLANCE

Land Area: 1.03 acres

Facilities:

- **Infrastructure:** Six storied building with two levels of parking facilities.
- **Auditorium:** A fully air-conditioned modern auditorium with 414 seats and state of the art audio-visual facilities.
- **Language Museum:** A unique digitalised language museum with interactive and internet access facilities.
- **Time table to visit the Language Museum:** On all weekdays from 10:00 am to 05:00 pm excepting Government holidays. In addition, on Government National Days (26 March, the glorious Independence Day; 15 August, the National Mourning Day and 16 December, the Victory Day) the Language Museum remains open for visitors on special arrangement from 10:00 am to 05:00 pm.
- **Language Archive:** A digitalised language archive of the writing systems of the world with online connectivity
- **Library:** A fully automated library with a rich collection of books on language and language related aspects
- **Language Lab:** Fully digitalised language lab with modern audio-visual facilities. Student capacity is 30. At present language training courses are offered in English, Arabic, Korean, Japanese, French and Chinese.
- **Guest Room:** Seven full furnished and air conditioned guest rooms for the invitees.
- **Seminar & Conference Rooms:** A well-spaced seminar room and a conference room with audio-visual facilities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF IMLI

- Promotion, preservation and standardisation of mother languages.
- Conducting research to introduce mother tongue-based education in Asia and beyond the region.
- Celebration of the International Mother Language Day (21 February).
- Conducting a Centre for language documentation and standardisation.
- Conducting a Language Museum and a Language Archive.
- Establishment of a language learning centre.
- Organising National and International seminar on language related aspects.
- Regular publications on language related matters.
- Conducting training for skills development in language.

MAJOR ACTION PLANS

- To take necessary programme to introduce and extend Bangla language within the country and beyond;
- To collect, preserve and conduct research and training courses on languages of ethnic groups of different countries in the world;
- To conduct research on language movements including Bangla language movement with a view to circulating the histories of this movement to the member states of the United Nations (UN);
- To initiate training courses on language and information technology;
- To observe the International Mother Language Day (21 February) with due solemnity;
- To prepare and update dictionaries/lexicons, encyclopedias, etc. on various languages;
- To introduce writing-system of all languages of the ethnic people of the world;
- To publish research journal and make arrangement for holding seminars, symposiums and workshops on language related matters;