

Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua

**Founder & Chairman, Bright Green Energy Foundation (BGEF);
Founding Managing Director, Grameen Shakti and Co-Founder & Former Deputy Managing
Director, Grameen Bank;
First Zayed Future Energy Prize Winner**

Mr. Dipal C. Barua Founder & Chairman, Bright Green Energy Foundation (BGEF), has more than 35 years experience in finding sustainable market based solutions to the social and economical problems faced by the rural people. As the Founding Managing Director of Grameen Shakti, he is world renowned for his innovation, such as installment based payment which reduced the cost of a solar system to monthly kerosene cost, coupled with a strong effective after sales, repair, maintenance network, involving local technicians and especially women technicians cum entrepreneurs who repair, assemble solar accessories in their communities. He has shown that Solar PV technology can be successfully implemented on a mass scale to provide rural people with climate friendly energy, light, income and health. He won the First Zayed Future Energy Prize 2009 for his innovation and commitment to alternative energy. Under his vision and leadership, Grameen Shakti has received many national and international awards including Right Livelihood Award in 2007 and Ashden Outstanding Achievement Award in 2008.

He is one of the co-founders of Grameen Bank, and occupied the number two position as the Deputy Managing Director of this Nobel Prize Winning organization up to December 2009. Grameen Bank was initiated in his own village Jobra, and he worked in developing and designing Grameen Bank from day one as a student volunteer of Chittagong University in the seventies, and he took up increasing responsibilities with the growth of the bank. He designed and implemented Grameen II, heralding exponential growth and profitability for Grameen Bank.

He has introduced innovative financial mechanism that has made Solar Home Systems affordable for the rural people of Bangladesh. Now rural people can afford Solar Home Systems at the same cost as kerosene. He also developed innovative awareness building programs and training programs for local technicians to ensure low cost efficient after sales service at the doorsteps of the rural people. He has successfully linked Solar PV technology with income generation and energy cost savings.

In addition, he has developed an innovative biogas initiative that converts cow dung and poultry wastes into gas for cooking, lighting, electricity generation and slurry for organic fertilizer, and an improved cooking stove program to promote low cost improved stoves in rural areas to protect women from indoor air pollution and also reduce deforestation. Around 20000 biogas plants has been constructed since 2006 and over 100000 improved stoves constructed since 2007. He is also promoting tree plantation and organic fertilizers in the rural areas. He initiated to bring CDM funds for scaling up Improved Cooking Stoves in Bangladesh through signing an agreement with JP Morgan.

One of his key achievements is active involvement of women to promote renewable energy technologies. He designed and developed Village based Technology Centers-an innovative model to create Green Energy Women Entrepreneurs. Around 50 Green Technology Centers (GTC) has been set up in the rural areas to train 3000 young women to become solar technicians to assemble, promote as well as repair Solar Home Systems and other renewables. Many of these women who come from poor, disadvantaged families, are assembling, repairing solar accessories such as mobile chargers, invertors and charge controllers etc in their homes and thus contributing toward their family income, especially meeting the education and health needs of the children Through this innovative program, initiated at the end of 2005, he is contributing towards women empowerment, poverty reductions as well as expansion of environment friendly technologies.

He has set up a Scholarship Fund with his Zayed Future Energy Prize award money to expand and create 100000 Green Energy Women Entrepreneurs by 2015.

Mr. Barua is actively involved in research and publication to develop and disseminate best practices in the international arena. He is the author of the book titled " The Poor Always Pay Back", published from Kumarian Press, USA, which explains and analyzes the development of Grameen Bank from Classic to

Generalized System. He has been assigned as the Lead Author on Investment and Banking for the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

He participates in many national and international seminars to advocate pro poor finance and energy policies. He was an advisor of Project Enterprise, a micro lending Program, in New York, USA. As a Renewable Energy and Development Expert he gives his input and recommendations to initiate and develop renewable policies/programs in various countries. He is a Member of Strategic Advisory Board of IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency). He is also a member of the advisory board of the International Climate Initiative, Germany. He is also the Board member of A Solar World For All, a new initiative to expand solar energy to the rural people. He is also the Jury member of the Design Contest, initiated by Fraunhofer Institute of Solar Energy (ISE), Germany and Canopus Foundation.

His Vision is to transform Bangladesh into one of the First Solar Nations through his innovative efforts, a source of hope for 1.6 billion energy starved people around the world. He wants to create a sustainable framework to reach 75 million Bangladeshis –half the population- of Bangladesh, with renewable energy technologies.

He has set up Bright Green Energy Foundation (BGEF) to realise his vision through pilot testing new business models, innovative technologies and especially creating 100,000 Green Energy Women Entrepreneurs, who will promote, repair and maintain Solar Home Systems and other renewables.

National and International Awards Received by Dipal Barua

First Zayed Future Energy Prize (Abu Dhabi)	2009
European Solar Prize (Germany)	2006
IDCOL Award (for scaling up SHS)	2005

Under the leadership of Dipal Chandra Barua, Grameen Shakti received

International Microfinance Awards from PlaNet Finance (Paris)	2009
Ashden Outstanding Achievement Award (UK)	2008
National Environment Award (Bangladesh)	2008
Energy Globe Award (Brussels)	2008
Right Livelihood Award (Sweden)	2007
Tech Museum Award (USA)	2007
Ashden Award (UK)	2006
Solar Prize (for outstanding performance)	2004
USAID Best Theme Award	2003
European Solar Prize (Germany)	2003
Energy Globe Award (Austria)	2002