

Bangladesh as an emerging nation has been undergoing epoch making economic transformation under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The rapid industrialisation aided by major infrastructure development (roads/highways, road and railway bridges, mass rail transit (metro) systems, underwater tunnel, deep seaport, bay terminal, new international and domestic airport terminals, thermal and nuclear power plants, high voltage power transmission, etc.) has created immense opportunities as well as technical and economic challenges for Bangladesh. For the first time in the history of Bangladesh, the nation's technical/engineering, scientific and policymaking communities are required to deal with mega projects for which they need firsthand experience, skills, and expertise. These-nation building mega projects have provided ground breaking opportunities, confidence and experience for future mega ventures to be undertaken by homegrown experts relinquishing the dependency on foreign consultants. The gained firsthand experience and innovations to overcome challenges in the recently completed mega projects are yet to be scientifically documented and disseminated. The innovations in problem solving for the mega project implementations in Bangladesh can be applied with local contextualisation anywhere in the world. It is very pleasing to inform that the MIST International Journal of Science and Technology has taken a bold initiative to publish research articles on challenges and difficulties that required innovative solutions for the execution of mega projects in Bangladesh through a series of Special Issues, and I am excited to present the of first such Special Issue on Padma Multipurpose Bridge project.

The inaugural Special Issue includes a distinct selection of eight research articles encompassing from construction challenges and management, benefits of connectivity and mobility, environmental safeguards in construction, bridge structural health monitoring, riverbed soil characterisation at bridge site, seismic study of bridge piers, dynamic response of moving vehicles and trains, and engineering unique features of Padma rail bridge. All eight articles are original, innovative and have notable implication in science, engineering, and technology. The research findings of each article are unique.

I cordially invite to submit articles on any mega projects including under construction Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport Terminal 3, Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Railway project, Cox's Bazar Runway Extension Project, Bangabandhu Railway Bridge, Karnafuly River Tunnel, Materbari Deepsea Port, Patenga Seaport Bay Terminal, Matarbari Thermal Power Plant, and recently completed Payra Thermal Power Plant and Rampal Thermal Power for the next series of Special Issues. Articles on other mega projects anywhere in the world are also gladly welcome for Special and/or regular issues.

I express my profound gratitude and thanks to the chief patron, executive editor, associate editors, section editors, reviewers, other editors and proof-readers, editorial board members (national and international), and web production consultant for their extraordinary support for the Special Issue. Their commitment, enthusiasm and 'can do' attitude have made possible to publish the Special Issue on schedule. I fervently request you all to promote the Journal and its articles among your colleagues, research scholars and library databases.

As always, I warmly welcome your advice, suggestion, and feedback for the betterment of the Journal. Please feel free to contact me at firoz.alam@rmit.edu.au or mijst@mist.ac.bd with your queries or ideas.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Firoz Alam
Editor in Chief