

The SME Policy 2019 Promises to Improve Editorial **SME Scenario of Bangladesh**

SME plays a vital role to strengthen the economy. As more than 90 percent of businesses are from SMEs, sound economic development cannot be ensured without providing proper focus on SMEs. SMEs account for about 45 per cent of manufacturing value addition, about 80 per cent of industrial employment, around 90 per cent of total industrial units and 25 per cent of labor force. They contain the ability to create numerous job opportunities and increase their contribution to GDP.

In order to facilitate the SME entrepreneurs, the Government of Bangladesh has recently published "SME Policy 2019". The new policy will remain effective until June 2024. The Government deserves appreciation for formulating the policy. The SME policy 2019 would undoubtedly play an important role to improve the present scenario of the SME sectors. As SMEs are considered as the backbone of the Bangladesh's economy, this policy would play a significant role to enable vast opportunities for the SME sectors. Moreover, this policy aims to increase the contribution of SME sectors to GDP from 25% to 32% by 2024. This SME policy has 11 strategies, which are based on six vital areas. These areas are human resource development, business development service, access to finance, transfer of technology, cluster based SME development strategy and access to marketing and information. The Policy will take extensive SME Development activities to increase desired contribution of SMEs. However, the most important fact is that SMEs could not actually avail the real benefits of this policy until they perceive proper knowledge about it and information of the policy is disseminated properly.

BUILD in collaboration with Ministry of Industries(MOI) and PRISM organized a day long Workshop on the 'SME Policy 2019' to create awareness about the new SME policy 2019 and stock taking of activities of all concerned agencies related to implement the action plans of the policy. In the time bound action plan of the policy, 36 govt. and 9 non-govt. agencies are assigned to carry out the activities under 11 strategic goals. These organizations are already engaged with several projects. Therefore, the main challenge would be how these organizations integrate new SME related activities/projects with their existing workload. It is seen that for MOI, about 47 activities have to be accomplished which is huge work, the workshop proposed specific cell/independent secretariat for implementing time-bound action plans.

Out of 7.8 million enterprises in Bangladesh 88% of them are cottage industries. Instead of representing a large portion of the enterprises, there is no structured policy for cottage enterprises yet. Without accommodating those industries, the real development of SME cannot be possible. Therefore, a separate policy for cottage industries might be formulated or a new chapter can be included in the policy to facilitate those industries.

Still, there is no uniform definition of SMEs, which creates difficulties in terms of SME financing. Different policies defined SMEs differently over the years. This repeated changes in definitions are creating obstacles for SMEs to avail various opportunities.

To accelerate the development of SME sectors and carry out the Action Plan, the formation of two high-level policy coordination committees is mentioned in SME policy. One is National SME Development Council and other is National SME Task Force. To ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation, these two committees should arrange their meeting on due time. Implementation of the policy is a challenging task now to achieve the targets of the policy, proper monitoring and follow-up is very important. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD



Volume 8, Issue 6, November-December 2019

Congratulations to Nihad Kabir for being Re-elected

BUILD congratulates Nihad Kabir for being reelected as the President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka for the year of 2020.

BUILD is pleased to welcome Nihad Kabir to the Board of Trustee of BUILD in 2020 who served as the Chairman of BUILD previously and Trustee Board Members since 2016.

BUILD also congratulates the Vice President Anis A Khan and Directors of MCCI and appreciates for being the long-standing partner of BUILD. Nihad Kabir is an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and a director and shareholder of Kedarpur Tea Co Ltd. . She is a director of Brac Bank, Infrastructure Development Company, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, bKash, and independent director of Square Pharmaceuticals and Apex Footwear.

Congratulations to Shams Mahmud for being Elected



Congratulations to Shams Mahmud for being the President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) for the year 2020. BUILD is delighted to welcome Mahmud to the Board of Trustee of BUILD in 2020. BUILD also congratulates to NKA Mobin, FCA FCS and Mohammad Bashiruddin for being elected as the Senior Vice President and Vice President of DCCI respectively.

Shams Mahmud is a leading entrepreneur in the textile and readymade garment sector in Bangladesh. He is the managing director of Shasha Denims, Shasha Garments, Shasha Spinning and Shasha Textiles.

Let's welcome 2020 with our reflections on 2019. Before 2019 disappears into the mists of time, let's reflect back on some highlights from the year just gone, as we welcome in the new one.

In 2019, together, we made important progress, rising to the rank of the 168th from 176th in Doing Business Index.

Hope the new year brings fresh opportunities, and making the most of them means finding common ground and shared purpose.

As we are already in 2020, let's remember that this spirit of teamwork is what got us here today, and that it remains our path forward.

In the year, we will continue to focus on the issues that matter most to private sector development to build on the recent achievement and further accelerate regulatory reform efforts to continue to improve the business climate.

I sincerely extend our gratitude to all our partners for tremendously supporting us in 2019.

Mahbubul Alam Chairman, BUILD

BUILD CONNECT is sponsored by

BUILD



13th Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) meeting at the Prime Minister's Office on November 27, 2019.

Talking about Bangladesh's aspiration to become a middle - income country, Md. Nojibur Rahman, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office said that the government places high importance on ensuring access to energy for all people and sustainable and renewable energy enjoys priority in this regard. He appreciated the role of BUILD for coming up with specific suggestions on promoting renewable energy, with specific importance to rooftop solar. Specific issue-based working groups could be formed involving concerned government organizations as well as adequate private sector representation for taking consolidated implementable decisions to move ahead on solar energy, e-commerce and other areas presented by BUILD in the meeting, he added.

Organized by Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) and the Prime Minister's Office, the meeting initially did stocktaking of the 12th PSDPCC meeting held on February 10, 2019 and mentioned the reforms proposed already and implemented. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum informed that out of 64 proposed reforms from the 5th to 11th PSDPCC meetings, 28 reforms were implemented. BUILD presented four policy papers and they include Popularizing Rooftop Solar Power and Implementation of Solar Power Development Program Guidelines - 2013 and Net Metering Guidelines 2018, Policy Support for Women Entrepreneurs (WE) in Promoting E-commerce, Simplification of Input-Output Coefficient on Leather goods and Footwears and Duty Drawback and Eliminating Problems of Plastic Factories in old Dhaka and Relocating them to new Plastic Industries. Ferdaus Ara Begum mentioned that government has taken initiative to relocate the plastic industries in old Dhaka. But as the process is taking time, the existing plastic industries are facing issues in renewal of trade license and environment clearance certificate.

While presenting the policy paper on the Rooftop Solar Power Study, Tahmid Zami, Additional Research Director of BUILD stressed that incentives and benefits as independent power producers (IPPs) as stipulated in the Private Sector Power Generation Policy 1996 should be made enforceable for rooftop solar power developers. In the mandatory list of upcoming Import Policy solar equipments would need to be included. BSTI would need to upgrade its capacity for ensuring testing and certification services, he said. SREDA Chairman highlighted the progress made in integrating OPEX and tripartite agreement in the Net Metering Guidelines and stressed ongoing close coordination by SREDA with stakeholders to implement reforms.

Mentioning average spending of online shopping is currently BDT 7.6 billion, BUILD made a call for a coordinated E-Commerce Cell under the National Digital Commerce Policy of MOC with clear delineation of the composition and function of the body with clearing definitional issues of Market Place Based Digital Commerce.

E-commerce can be included as a separate category to get Trade License not as IT-enabled services (ITES). The study emphasized the importance of interoperability among different payment systems as well as cross-border trade. For Cross Border E-Commerce, BUILD requested the Bangladesh Bank may issue a circular for promoting cross border E-Commerce trade by mentioning some specific criterion (requirement of L/C, duration of retention and repatriation of Foreign Exchange etc.) in consultation with respective associations and bodies.

Volume 8, Issue 6, November-December 2019

Secretary, Planning Division mentioned that the Hon'ble Prime Minister provided guidance that the government would extend all support to private sector-led development. He informed that in order to support private sector, government would undertake various infrastructure development projects. Principal Secretary endorsed the importance of procuring raw material, production and market for supporting private sector.

Obaidul Azam, Additional Secreatary, Ministry of Commerce echoing the request of chair of the PSDPCC volunteered to lead a coordination cell for electronic commerce under the Ministry of Commerce with participation of all relevant stakeholders including BUILD.

On the leather and leather goods, BUILD CEO mentioned that the input-output coefficient is used for duty drawback. The new VAT Act however doesn't have a clear specification about Duty Exemption and Drawback Office's role. An automated system is supposed to replace DEDO's role in this task, though such a system is not in place yet. At present an interim arrangement is there for DEDO to work for bonded warehouses under Customs Act. Government needs to specify DEDO's role in determining the input-output coefficient during the transition period.

President LFMEAB Saiful Islam suggested that for ease of doing business, leather sector has attained capacity in determining coefficient. DEDO's role could be exempted in this regard. He stressed that permission for ETPs should be issued for factories in the Tannery Industrial Estate in Dhaka(TIED).

Secretary, Ministry of Industries informed that a company has been fomed for operating the Tannery Estate. For LWG compliance, there needs to be coordinated efforts between government and private sector. He mentioned that government took steps to establish plastic parks in Narayanganj and Tongi.

Thanking the Prime Minister's Office for holding the PSDPCC Meeting routinely under the leadership of the Principal Secretary, BUILD Chairman Mahbubul Alam said that this platform is the best example for acting as the united voice of the private sector to ensure that the major issues impeding the development of the private sector are addressed in a meaningful way with an emphasis on private sector led growth in achieving our vision.

Principal Secretary approved the proposal for formalizing BUILD's role in providing secretarial support for PSDPCC and endorsed the suggestion for appointing focal points in all relevant ministries for coordination with BUILD.

The meeting was attended by Secretaries from different ministries including high level officials from PMO, BEZA, MoEFCC, BIDA, Road Transport Division, Bridges Division, DoE, Bangladesh Bank, SREDA, NBR, Ministry of Commerce, ICTSD, DEDO, A2I ICT Division, Finance Division, PPP Office and private sector leaders from FBCCI, BGMEA, DCCI, FICCI, e-CAB, BPGMEA, LFMEAB, representative from the World Bank, along with senior government officials

Preparatory Meeting on 13th PSDPCC Held at PMO

A preparatory meeting on the 13th Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee due on November 27, 2019 took place on November 24,2019 at the Prime Minister's Office.

The meeting discussed various issues of the private sector including four new agendas and 28 new recommendations under four policy papers and they include Popularizing Rooftop Solar Power and Implementation of Solar Power Development Program Guidelines - 2013 and Net Metering Guidelines 2018, Policy Support for Women Entrepreneurs (WE) in Promoting E-commerce, Simplification of Input-Output Coefficient on Leather goods and Footwears and Duty Drawback and Eliminating Problems of Plastic Factories in old Dhaka and Relocating them to new Plastic Industries.

The meeting put more emphasis on follow-up of the policy reforms and in this respect meeting with DG-1 could be held on a regular basis to report to the PSDPCC before having the full-fledged meeting. The meeting was attended by Ferdaus Ara Begum, Chief Executive Officer of BUILD, Mohammad Salahuddin, Director General-1, PMO, Md. Ziaul Haque, Director- 1, PMO.



BUILD CEO hands over BUILD publications to Kamal Ahmed Mojumder MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Industries at the Workshop.

Ministry of Industries, BUILD and Poverty Reduction through Inclusive and Sustainable Markets (PRISM) jointly organized a day long Workshop on the 'SME Policy 2019' at the Victory Hotel on 11th December 2019. Kamal Ahmed Mojumder MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Industries, was present in the workshop as the Chief Guest which was chaired by Md. Abdul Halim, Secretary, Ministry of Industries.

Hon'ble State Minister, MOI thanked the organizers including MOI. BUILD and PRISM for taking such an excellent initiative within the three months of getting cabinate division approval of SME Policy.

He emphasized the role of SMEs in maintaining economic growth and put thrust on role of BSCIC, SME Foundation to ensure the development of small enterprises. He also informed that government is sincere in supporting SMEs and thus having a number of initiatives, this type of workshops is very much helpful to understand the real needs of the SMEs.

Md. Abdul Halim, Secretary, Ministry of Industries stated that MOI would be provided with all the necessary supports to implement the targeted action plan in due time. In this regard, he expects coordinated efforts from all the concerned organizations.

In regard to monitoring and evaluation he also emphasized the role of National SME Development Council and the National SME Task Force as the main organs to take stock of implementation of the time-bound action plan entrusted to more than 36 government and 9 private sector organizations. Refering to short term, mid and long term activities, he expressed his hope to implement all activities on time.

Mostaque Hassan, Chairman, BSCIC said that BSCIC has been playing a pivotal role in nurturing the small, micro and cottage industries since its inception and informed that to mitigate environmental pollution BSCIC has taken an initiative to establish 50 industrial parks aiming to achieve SDGs 2030.

Earlier Ali Sabet, Team Leader welcomed all the participants from govt. and non-govt organization and stated that the 'SME Policy 2019' would undoubtedly play an important role to improve the present scenario of the SME sectors.

Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD delivered the keynote speech and highlighted the important areas of the policy including definitional issues comparing other countries and said that the threashold of employment and investment is higher in the country, she also raised the need for including cottage industries in the SME Policy which make up 68 lac out of total 78 lacs or 87.52% of toal industrial establishment according to the 2013 census.

Policy Intervention Needed to Engage More Women **Entrepreneurs in Public Procurement**



Nurul Amin, Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning, was present as chief guest while Md. Ali Noor, Director General (Additional Secretary) of the CPTU as special guest. Ferdaus Ara Begum, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BUILD chaired the meeting.

BUILD in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and with the support of the Ministry of Planning and Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) organized a policy dialogue on "Engaging Women Entrepreneurs in Public Procurement" on December 1, 2019 in the Conference Room of CPTU.

At her welcome speech, CEO of BUILD stated that the participation of women entrepreneurs in the labor force is 36.3% where 91.8% of them are operating their business in an informal way. The contribution of women entrepreneurs in the economy could be increased if proper facilities are provided to them. It was found in a BUILD study that due lack of access to finance, access to marketing, access to information and required capacity the full potentiality of women entrepreneurs could not be explored.

Mehruna Islam Chowdhury, Gender Consultant, BUILD in her keynote presentation demonstrated some policy related recommendation and emphasized on maintaining a gender-disaggregated data. There is a special provision for subcontracting in the policy where women owned SMEs could contribute

Tanvir Ahmed, Country Coordinator, Bangladesh International Trade Centre (ITC) expressed that access to information is the main problem for women entrepreneurs in public procurement. There might be two reasons behind it.

Md. Ali Noor, DG, CPTU stated that due to some restriction in policy, some necessary steps could not be taken properly. He argued that WE can participate under quotation method and limited tender method but they need to know the issues elaborately.

He assured for policy reforms and informed about inclusion of Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) in the policy. He suggested that more dialogues could be arranged in the future regarding this issue to engage more women entrepreneurs (WE) in public procurement.

Nurul Amin, Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning said that the business environment is more favorable now for women than any time. He informed about the women help desk in every district, which could be made effective to provide service.

He pointed out that women are less involved in corruption than men are. Therefore, involvement of WE in Public Procurement can give good result. Women should be proactive about figuring out important tender notices in national dailies.

BUILD

Identifying Opportunities for Business Growth in **Selected Business Sectors**



BUILD CEO speaks at the meeting at Mongla.

A workshop titled, "Identifying Opportunities for Business Growth in Selected Business Sectors" was organized by BUILD, supported by PROKAS project of British Council, funded by UKaid, at Mongla on December 4, 2019. The Mayor or Mongla Md. Zulfikar Ali was present as the Chief guest. The President of Bagerhat Chamber of Commerce and Industry was also present, along with Kamrunnahar, Vice-Chairman (Female) of Mongla Municipality.. A number of local entrepreneurs, representatives from civil society organizations, and media were present at the workshop.

Discussion took place Out of 40 potential industrial sectors, 3 sectors were finally selected for further consideration for investment, based on their economic viability and market potential, prospects for employment creation targeted at the climate-displaced population in the South Wester districts, and their beneficial environmental and social impact. These 3 sectors are plastic recycling, coconut fiber based products, and water treatment.

After opening remarks by the organizers and dignitaries, a brief presentation was made on the investment proposals of the selected 3 business sectors, followed by an interactive discussion session. The following major recommendations were received at the workshop:

- A system for token cash reimbursement ranging from 25 to 50 paisa per PET bottle should be introduced nationwide to promote systematic disposal and collection of PET bottles.Color coded trash bins for disposing PET bottles should be kept at all public places.
- Coir products should be included in the list of agro-based products in the National Export Policy and National Industrial Policy in order to benefit from conducive policy and regulatory framework.Cash incentive for export of coir products should be raised to 20% instead of the prevailing 10% rate. Coir products should be brought under VAT exemption.
- In order to promote adequate supply of coconut husks and matured coconut in general, policy and fiscal measure should be framed to encourage establishment of manufacturing plants for virgin coconut oil and desiccated coconut powder.
- Major interventions are required on an urgent basis to address the ongoing ecological crisis resulting from rising salinity in water in the South Western districts.Ponds and other natural reservoirs of fresh water in the region should be brought under survey and conservation measures need to be strictly enforced with immediate effect.
- New and innovative technologies should be explored from global sources to install/replicate in the region for desalination powered by solar energy, or other sustainable technology should be explored and transferred.

Volume 8, Issue 6, November-December 2019



Kazi Masudul Islam, Director of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry speaks at the meeting

Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) in partnership with Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) organized a workshop on "Assessing Adaptation Investment Opportunities for Micro, Small, And Medium Enterprises in Khulna" on December 4, 2019. The program was supported by ICLEI South Asia and Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD mentioned that as one of the most climate vulnerable countries, Bangladesh needs to bring all stakeholders together for ensuring proper adaptation to the impact of climate change. The SMEs often lack the resource, expertise, and policy support to adapt to the effects of climate change and hence require special attention.

The workshop was organized in the City Inn Hotel at Khulna where representatives from different chamber bodies, SMEs from different sectors, as well as local NGOs and social organizations took part. Kazi Masudul Islam, Director of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) mentioned that SMEs are the main provider of employment and should therefore be nurtured against adverse impacts of climate change. Businesses should take part in reforestation efforts of the government.

Nasim Uddin, Vice President of Jhenaidah Chamber of Commerce mentioned that banks should extend finance to eligible SMEs affected by disasters due to climate change and chambers and trade associations could come forward to support the SMEs in availing necessary financing. Humayun Kabir, Director of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Association welcomed the initiative to hold dialogue on adaptation to climate change for SMEs. He mentioned that the global temperature may grow by 1 degree Celsius by 2030 and 2 by 2050 and salinity is quickly reaching upstream in Bangladesh.

The workshop featured discussion on specific sectors such as agro-processing and food, jute, handicrafts, and water. Discussants highlighted their vulnerabilities as well as necessary measures to counteract the negative impact. In the agro-processing and food sector, the focus was mainly on the shrimp sector. Increasing salinity in the coastal region is making farming of prevalent shrimp varieties increasingly unsustainable. Saline-adaptive varieties of shrimp should be introduced in this regard.

In the jute sector also, saline water and weather patterns are creating challenges for jute cultivation, and more research should be conducted to ensure that jute sector is not negatively affected by climate change. Jute sector representative urged all to spread awareness for using jute packaging and implement the Mandatory Packaging Act so that plastic could be replaced by natural fibers.

Earlier Mr Tahmid Zami, Additional Research Director presented the keynote to initiate the discussion highlighting the objectives of the project. A number of business sector representatives, government and NGO officials, Chamber and media representatives were present to interact.

BUILD

Lack of GTF Utilization Despite being Available **Irrespective of Manufacturing-Exporting Industries**

A team from BUILD led by Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO met the representatives of Sustainable Finance Department (SFD), Bangladesh Bank (BB) on 28 November, 2019 at Bangladesh Bank. Khondkar Morshed Millat, General Manager, SFD, BB was present in the meeting. The meeting was held to discuss the current situation of Green Transformation Fund (GTF) of BB.

CEO, BUILD expressed her gratitude to SFD, BB for expediting the utilization of GTF in recent months. GTF, in the earlier stage, faced severe constraints in private sector usage. After rigorous advocacy from BUILD in cooperation with Bangladesh Bank(BB) it has opened up GTF irrespective of all manufacturing-exporting sectors.

As per information given by SFD, BB on 28 November, 2019, the utilization of GTF has increased upto USD 45.8 million in 9 projects which have come from textile industries. However, no application from non-textile sector for obtaining GTF causes a major concern for ensuring green transformation in all sectors and also export and industrial diversification in the country.

According to representatives from SFD, BB 80% of the clients in the leather sector do their banking through state-owned commercial banks. Some of the eligibility criteria for authorized dealers in GTF are that there will be no shortfall in capital adequacy, no liquidity shortfall and the NPL will not exceed 10%.

The state-owned commercial banks in the country do not fulfill the eligibility criteria for GTF. According to SFD, corporate governance, account transparency and bankability are performed well in the textile sector. It is no doubt that sustainability is correlated to ethics and textile sector is performing well in these areas. The non-textile sectors have to do a lot in this regard.

SFD, BB informed that the current 200 crore taka fund named Refinancing Scheme for 51 products will soon become 400 crore taka fund which is the area where BUILD looks forward to conducting advocacy for increasing this fund more for the private sector.

In the meeting, the issue of current interest rate in GTF was also discussed. According to SFD, BB it is difficult to take clients from non-textile sector for commercial banks as risk premium is high in non-textile sector compared to the textile sector.

It will be difficult for banks to sustain if current margin of 2.5% is decreased and as a result, financing the private sector will be difficult. However, BUILD would request BB whether the interest rate of 1% for central bank can be reduced.

BUILD requested SFD to review the documentation required for availing GTF, the current documentation requirement has been reduced to 26 from the previous 29 documents. GM, SFD also informed that a structured guidance note for GTF is on the way and it will address all issues regarding GTF.

CEO, BUILD requested SFD to provide an update regarding the proposed meeting to be held between SFD and its technical advisory committee.

According to SFD, the technical advisory committee consisting of representatives from Department of Environment(DoE), Dhaka University(DU), Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology(BUET), Associationrepresentatives, GIZ, Experts on Carbon Footprint does not function well. SFD, BB thinks that restructuring of the technical advisory committee is a dire need.

CEO, BUILD informed about the APEC list for capital machinery. She said that the APEC list can be a starting point to identify the indicative list of capital machinery that can come under GTF coverage. There is also a need for awareness generation among the private sector in this regard.

Country Competitiveness Inevitable for Improved

Economy: DCCI

Salman F. Rahman, MP, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Private Industry and Investment speaks as the Chief Guest while DCCI President Osama Taseer

seminar on Country Competitiveness of Bangladesh: Challenges and Way

Forward at Six Seasons Hotel on 23 November, 2019. DCCI President

Osama Taseer in his welcome address said private sector is the lifeline of

our economy. Investment and trade promotion largely rely on doing

business and country competitiveness state of a country. Bangladesh stands

in the 105th position according to Global Competitiveness Report 2019 out of 141 countries where Singapore stands top followed by USA, Hong Kong

Salman F. Rahman, MP, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Private Industry

and Investment said we need to work hard and more to improve the

investment climate and he hoped that by 2021, Bangladesh will be able to place its position within double digit in the Ease of Doing Business index.

Lot of reforms has been done by the present government and he urged the business community to reach this message to the mass people as well as in

Dr. Rubana Huq, President, BGMEA urged for inter-ministerial coordination for smoother decision making process. She also urged for innovation and research and development (Rand D) in the RMG sector for its sustainability. She also mentioned that besides RMG sector, we need to focus on diversification of other sectors to compete in the international

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, Chairman and CEO, PRAN RFL said we need to identify the problems of each sector and to find out the appropriate

MCCI Organizes Discussion on Challenges and **Opportunities of Family Business**

MCCI

BANGLADESH

Volume 8, Issue 6, November-December 2019

Consultation Session on Private Sector Engagement in SDGs Held

Ministry of Planning and UNDP jointly organized a "Consultation Session on Private Sector Engagement in Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh: Bonding and Beyond" on 2nd November, 2019 at Hotel InterContinental, Dhaka under the Engaging with Institutions (EI), IP Project.

Objectives of the session were to ensure the engagement of private sectors in SDGs to attain more employment opportunity, developing cheaper services, ensure supply of skilled workforce in private sector, incentives for innovation, offering more opportunities for public-private partnership etc.

Asif Ibrahim, Director, BGMEA and Founder Chairman of BUILD suggested that there could be collaboration between PSDPCC (BUILD provides secretarial support to this committee) and GED to ensure the official engagement of private sector in SDGs. Shekil Chowdhury, Chairperson, Centre for NRBs informed that more than 12 million of workforce of Bangladesh is working at 150 countries of the world for the economic development of Bangladesh. Partnership between resident and nonresident Bangladeshi needs to be formed. Ahsan H.Mansur, Executive Director, PRI suggested that NGO sectors needs to be engaged in the process to ensure their productive contribution to achieve SDGs. Syed Munir Khasru, Chairman, IPAG, IBA, DU focused on the technological skill development training in the educational institution to build a pull of skilled workforce. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD put emphasize on the elimination of policy uncertainty and policy unpredictability to boost the private sector growth and investment.

Representatives from PMO, Ministry of Planning, GED, UNDP, NSU, DU, BGMEA, MCCI, NGOs and private sector leaders glorified the session through their valuable remarks.

BUILD Joined National Resilience Programme



Pictured are BGMEA President, BUILD Founder Chairman and BUILD CEO

Bangladesh Planning Commission and UNDP jointly organized an inception workshop on "Supply Chain Resilience of RMG Sector in Bangladesh" was held on 18th December, 2019 at BICC. Goal of National Resilience Programme is sustain the resilience of human and economic development in Bangladesh through inclusive, gender responsive disaster management and risk informed development. The study focused on review of existing supply chain of RMG in BD, implication of natural disaster and climate change related risk in RMG sector etc. Research team has planned to collect data of flood, cyclone and earthquake since last 50 years.

Dr. Rubana Huq, President, BGMEA emphasized on the inclusion of other industries in that respect. Numbers of scattered projects are there on National Resilience Program (NRP). In Bangladesh, rate of production is higher than consumption. Merchandise consumption needs to be diversified. Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) needs to be implemented as soon as possible. A first track group would be formed to monitor the activities of NRP. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD said that the time frame to conduct the study is too short to implement the full objectives of the report while required data collection on specific issues would be difficult to recommend prpoper policies and actions for the sector.

BUILD

chaired the seminar.

and the Netherlands, he informed.

the international arena.

market.

measures to solve.

Partner's Corner

MCCI

Volume 8, Issue 6, November-December 2019

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI), in collaboration with Dun and Bradstreet South Asia Middle East Ltd., organized a discussion on "Challenges and Opportunities of Family Business" on Saturday, 30 November 2019 at its Gulshan office premises. The discussion focused on succession plan and family constitution and the challenges and opportunities family businesses faced.

In the keynote presentation, Dr. Bagale mentioned that issues such as owner's death, a lack of interest on the part of the successors, and the involvement of the spouses of the next-generation family members could often determine the sustainability of a family business.

Dr. Bagale also pointed out that most family businesses did not survive beyond the 3rd generation. Hence, in order to ensure success, family businesses required a thorough understanding of the complexities involved and different sets of strategies than non-family businesses. He recommended having clear succession plans and advisory boards for ensuring the best performance of family businesses.

In his introductory remarks, Golam Mainuddin pointed out that family businesses in Bangladesh were growing at a rate higher than the international average despite facing many challenges in the areas of skill and efficiency, innovation, domestic competition, rising prices of energy, raw materials, etc. Bangladesh must, therefore, look for ways to ensure that they flourish optimally, he said.

He also praised local family businesses like Square Group, Transcom Group, ACI group, Rahimafrooz Group, or Apex group for setting fine examples. At the end, he assured of MCCI's continued commitment to developing family businesses and taking the overall business environment of the country to newer heights.

CCCI Holds Meeting with CII Delegation



Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President Mahbubu Alam briefs the delegation of CII of India.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President Mahbubul Alam speaking at a meeting with a 14-member delegation of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) led by Bandhan Bank Founder and CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh (left), at the World Trade Centre.

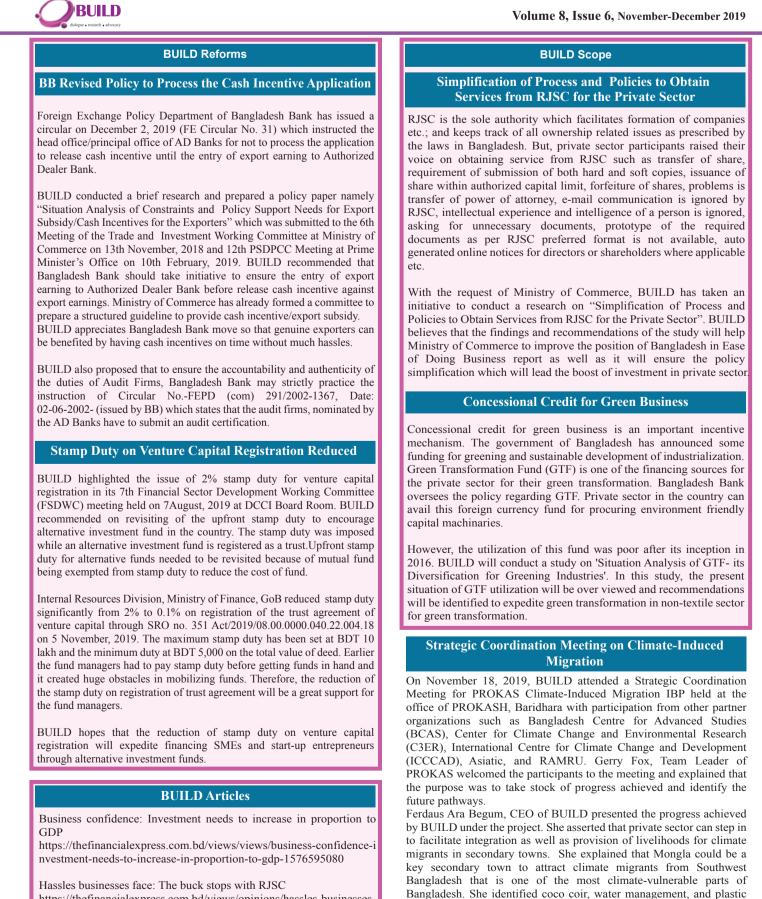
Mahbubul Alam called upon India traders to import more from Bangladesh to narrow the existing massive trade gap between the two countries when India imports goods worth \$1.4 billion from Bangladesh which imports merchandise worth some 10 billion from India annually.

As part of strengthening bilateral economic relations, the delegation from industry body Confederation of Indian Industry embarked up on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

The delegation participated in several business meetings, visited industrial units and academic institutions to explore the business opportunities during the visit for getting first hand account during the mission.



Studies (DU), Mumbai, delivered the Keynote Presentation.



https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/opinions/hassles-businessesface-the-buck-stops-with-rjsc-1574865555

Rooftop solar power -- a sustainable option for Bangladesh https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/reviews/rooftop-solar-power -a-sustainable-option-for-bangladesh-1573226883

BUILD

Volume 8, Issue 6, November-December 2019



BUILD CEO speaks for private sector engagement and strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development at the Meeting.

FerdausAra Begum, CEO, BUILD attended high level roundtable discussion on "Capacity Development of Chambers of Commerce and Business on Implementation of SDGs and ILO's Global Report on Future of Work findings in Bangladesh" on 15th December, 2019 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC). The program was organized by Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) in collaboration with MCCI, DCCI, CCCI, SCCI, BGMEA and BKMEA. Salman F. Rahman MP, Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister, on Private Industry and Investment glorified the session as Chief Guest.

Habibullah N. Karim, Vice President, BEF presented key note presentation on "Engaging the Private Sector in Attaining SDGs" on which he stated the role of private sector in SDGs, framework of engagement in implementation process of SDGs and goal wise accountability task force model etc.

Asif Ibarhim, Founder Chairman of BUILD recommended some issues for the implementation of SDGs as data collection mechanism needs to be formalized, CSR needs to be linked with SDGs, government may provide incentives to use of renewable industry, recycling industry etc.

FerdausAra Begum, CEO, BUILD focused on "no one will be left behind". It is time to work for the climate migrants of coastal areas of Bangladesh.

19th Meeting of the Board of Trustees Held

recycling as three sectors of interest for which BUILD has been

developing business plans. The goal was to create enabling environment for employment generation in selected businesses in the

Mongla Region for climate migrants and to engage the private sector

and other stakeholders to identify opportunities with growth potential

and provide ways forward for increased public-private collaboration.

Mahbubul Alam, Chairman of BUILD Trustee Board and President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) presides over the meeting in presence of the President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI)

The 19th meeting of the Board of Trustees of BUILD was held on November 17, 2019 at the MCCI Gulshan Center chaired by Mahbubul Alam, Chairman of BUILD and President of CCCI. The meeting was attended by Nihad Kabir, Presiden of MCCI, Osama Taseer, President of DCCI, Md. Joynal Abdin, Acting Secretary General of DCCI, Moslem Uddin Khan, Representative from MCCI. BUILD CEO FerdausAra Begum briefed the agenda of the meeting.

Three new members from DCCI, MCCI and CCCI will join the Trustee Board Meeting of BUILD. Trustee Board is the highest policy making body of BUILD.

The Board of Trustees of BUILD is responsible for the policy direction that the organization takes from time to time. The Board is vested with the authority and responsibility to exercise control over all the activities conducted by BUILD. Presently there are seven members with a member secretary of the organization to run routine activities.

