

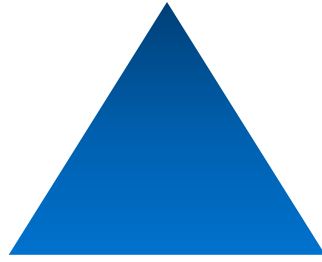


**Business Initiative Leading Development**

# Annual Report 2017







# **BUILD**

# **Annual Report**

# **2017**

Published in June 2018

**Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD)**

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# OVERVIEW OF 2017

## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



**Nihad Kabir**  
Chairperson of the Trustee Board  
BUILD  
2017

I am pleased to submit the BUILD 2017 Annual Report. This report highlights the achievements and effectiveness of the organisation despite a challenging environment. It summarises BUILD's role in helping the private sector with policy supports majorly in five thematic areas: Tax, SMEs, Financial Sector, Trade and Investment, and Sustainability and Green Growth.

In 2017, BUILD celebrated its sixth anniversary. Before going further, it is worth mentioning our achievements in the last six years. BUILD has already proposed 415 reform proposals through its Taxation, SMEs, Financial Sector, Trade and Investment Working Committees and finally placed through the PSDPCC at the Prime Minister's Office. The government has implemented 125 and approved 231 reforms proposals of BUILD, while the corresponding bodies of the government are examining the rest for implementation. Some major reforms have been included in this report.

In this thread, we appreciate the keen interest of the government in supporting our efforts in general and the Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, including all the Co-chairs of five Working Committees: Secretary of Ministry Commerce, Secretary of Ministry Industries, Chairperson of NBR, Secretary of Environment and Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank in particular. All Co-chairs of five Working Committees played a tremendous role in holding meetings.

Under the auspices of the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC), the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) held



a head to head meeting for the first time with all the working committee co-chairs of BUILD who are both from public and private sectors in a bid to review the status of reforms undertaken so far.

We placed four reform policy papers, namely policy simplification of CSR for banks, manufacturing of boilers in Bangladesh, financing policies for women entrepreneurs and bank charges rationalisation to reduce the cost of doing business at the eighth Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) at PMO. As well as PSDPCC, we placed ten policy papers in total through Taxation and Financial Sector Development Working Committees.

2017 was the milestone year for BUILD as BUILD, along with its partners, formalised the Sustainability and Green Growth Working Committee in order to harmonise economic growth with environmental sustainability while improving the eco-efficiency of economic growth and enhancing the synergies between environment and economy. Besides, the platform will create awareness among private sector stakeholders and grass-root people about organisational and peripheral hazards and disasters and the sustainable and resilient way outs.

Earlier the year, BUILD, Board of Investment (presently Bangladesh Investment Development Authority), and Prime Minister's Office (PMO) jointly organised the Bangladesh Investment and Policy Summit in the presence of Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina in order to showcase private sector investment opportunities in key sectors in Bangladesh and demonstrate opportunities for potential value addition in those sectors for sustained economic growth of Bangladesh. Honourable Prime Minister launched the flagship publication of BUILD, *Business Start-Up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide*, fourth edition, at the opening session of the two-day Bangladesh Investment and Policy Summit 2017.

#### Advocacy Meetings



#### Articles



#### Budget Proposals



#### Dialogues



#### Events



#### FGDs



#### Media Mentions (New Stories)



#### Newsletters



#### Policy Papers



#### PSDPCC Meeting



#### Publications



#### Working Committee Meetings



For policy research, cooperation, industry-academia collaboration, and access to resources, BUILD and the University of Dhaka signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). In 2017, we were sincere to respond to the time, necessity and demand of private sectors and held dialogues and advocated for their issues. We were rewarded for our immediate response, and high-quality work is the distinctive feature of BUILD which facilitates the business environment of Bangladesh effectively. We also helped the government hit the national goals.

We held dialogues on SMEs and Women Entrepreneurship Development, Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor (IPEC) Bangladesh Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB) Action Planning Workshop in collaboration with USAID and Chemonics International and Round Table Dialogue on Towards New Sources of Competitiveness in Bangladesh: A Diagnostic Trade Integration Study under the collaboration of WBG-IFC.

As well as we sat with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority -BIDA, Prime Minister's Office, Delegation of the European Union in Bangladesh, the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh Limited, the Spain-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the UN Capital Development Fund and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Foreign Investor Chamber and Industry among others to showcase our viewpoints for private sector development.

Fair to mention, BUILD attended several international events over the year and presented papers. They include Better Regulatory Forum, Ghana, The ESCAP Business Advisory Council, Bangkok, Bangladesh Investment Summit, Hong Kong, World Bank Group's Dialogue, Austria and

National Trade Portal, Single Window Best Practices Forum, Sri Lanka, Ninth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES IX) and New Economic Thinking: Bangladesh 2030 and Beyond.

Let me allow to give you insights into our projects accomplished in 2017. BUILD and UNDP Bangladesh signed a Micro- Capital Grant Agreement in 2017 for implementing a project on Enhanced national capacity and promotion of an enabling environment for resilience, better service delivery to the poor and vulnerable and redressing grievances. Under this project, BUILD conducted two significant studies on

Harmonisation of CSR Policies in Bangladesh and How the Private Sector can do business without polluting water in a bid to suggest stakeholders an overarching and strategy that reflects the unique requirements and goals of environmental sustainability and innovative business.

Not to mention, BUILD has become a valued partner of Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, to contribute to the delivery of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and enhance accountability in the implementation process.



**2017 was the milestone year for BUILD as BUILD, along with its partners, formalised the Sustainability and Green Growth Working Committee in order to harmonise economic growth with environmental sustainability while improving the eco-efficiency of economic growth and enhancing the synergies between environment and economy.**

BUILD, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) under the Ministry of Commerce (MOC), implemented the "Transparency in Trade Procedures" project with the support of the International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva. The project's objective was to document the administrative procedure of exporting certain products and publish it online using the e-Regulations tool. e-Regulations is a web-based tool developed by UNCTAD to help governments make rules and procedures fully transparent and to facilitate business, trade and investment.



We should admit Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) as our valued partners helped our priorities and performance with first-rate support.

I want to thank our Board of Trustees and other partners for their guidance and support in advancing the work of this vital organisation. Most of all, I want to thank the committed, hard-working, and thoughtful staff. You are the ones who bring the work of development to life.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to WBG-IFC for their consistent support for upholding the mandate of BUILD for policy simplification and addressing regulatory barriers for business with their technical and financial supports. I would also like to thank UNDP Bangladesh, USAID, ITC-Geneva, Chemonics International, and ActionAid to select BUILD as one of the partners. At the same time, I would extend my sincere thanks to a number of Chambers/Associations who benefited from BUILD's services and acknowledged us. I look forward to working with the Board, our partners and policy makers, as well as the

government. Our mission remains more critical than ever—to place BUILD as a platform for fact-based and research-backed dialogue and advocacy for unlocking the potential growth of the private sector in Bangladesh. Our commitment to the private sector will stay true to our mission and targets aligned with the national development plan for the Government of Bangladesh – helping the government create 2 million jobs through at least USD 10 million investment and 40,000 new SMEs. It is a privilege to undertake this great work.

Finally, I would like to welcome Mahbubul Alam, President of CCCI, as the Chairperson of the BUILD Trustee Board, and I believe he will help the organisation reach new heights.



**Nihad Kabir**  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees  
Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD)

# WHO WE ARE

Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) is a joint initiative of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) working as a platform in Bangladesh for an exchange of actionable ideas between the public and private sectors. It works as a strategic partner of the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) established at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in 2011 and extends all secretarial services through the Policy Coordination Unit (PCU) of the PMO.

It has been designed as a sustainable platform for action-oriented reform that simplifies the process of doing business in Bangladesh by working closely with the government. It assists the government in undertaking business reforms through focused public-private dialogue, backed by rigorous analysis and advocacy to ensure that concrete and results-based reforms are implemented as the government's trusted partner in promoting private sector-led growth and a united and powerful voice for business.

BUILD features a public-private dialogue on five thematic areas – Tax, SMEs, Financial Sector and Trade and Investment, Sustainability and Green Growth. It undertakes much of the analysis and advocacy to support the dialogue process and ensure that BUILD develops specific, measurable, and results-based recommendations for the government to implement.

## OUR VISION

To be a key thought leader and centre of knowledge, data, and experience on private sector issues in Bangladesh in an attempt to eradicate constraints facing private sector growth in Bangladesh Corporate Values

## OUR MISSION

To place BUILD as a platform for fact-based and research-backed dialogue and advocacy, to identify investment climate constraints and recommend changes to laws, policies, and regulations in order to unlock the growth potential of the country's private sector.

## OUR VALUES

The following set of values drive the operations of the organisation:

- Professionalism: Education, Relevant skills, Dedication, Team Spirit, Competency and Commitment
- Integrity: Ethical Behaviour, Credibility, Appreciation, Trust and Transparency
- Competitiveness: Effectiveness, Efficiency, Quality Services, Pro-activeness, and Dynamism



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We are grateful for the non-stop and sincere support round the year and guidance provided by our Board of Trustee Members of BUILD. The Board of Trustees, constituted in the Deed of Trust in 2013, is responsible for the policy direction that the organisation 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, seven members from the successful leading and prime chambers in Bangladesh, including a member secretary of the organisation, run routine activities.



**Nihad Kabir**

Chairperson of Trustee Board  
President, Metropolitan Chamber  
of Commerce and Industry (MCCI)



**Abul Kashem Khan**

President, Dhaka Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry (DCCI)



**Mahbubul Alam**

President, Chittagong Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry (CCCI)



**Farooq Ahmed**

Secretary General, MCCI



**A. H. M. Reazul Kabir**

Secretary General, DCCI



**Engr. Mohd. Farque Ahmed**

Secretary, CCCI (Acting)



**Asif Ibrahim**

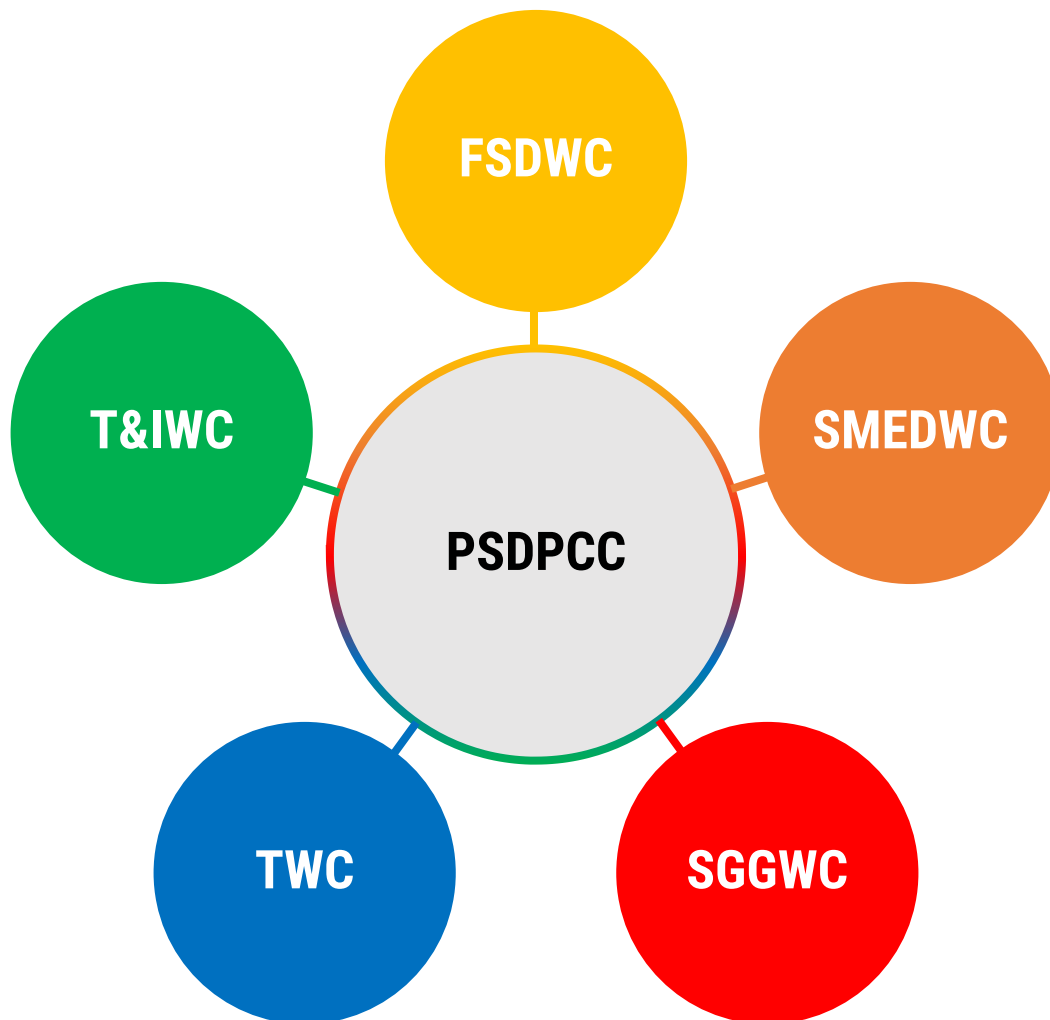
Advisor to Trustee Board



**Ferdaus Ara Begum**

Member Secretary

## OUR REFORM ECOSYSTEM





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## **Financial Sector Development Working Committee (FSDWC)**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To identify constraints to SME business and eventually create a conducive business environment for SMEs

### **PUBLIC SECTOR CO-CHAIR**

Deputy Governor-1, Bangladesh Bank

### **PRIVATE SECTOR CO-CHAIR**

President, DCCI

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## **SME Development (SMEDWC)**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To identify constraints to SME business development and promote SMEs for alleviating poverty and generating employment

### **PUBLIC SECTOR CO-CHAIR**

Secretary, Ministry of Industries

### **PRIVATE SECTOR CO-CHAIR**

President, CCCI

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## **Sustainability and Green Growth (SGGWC)**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To create awareness among business for climate change for green growth and environment friendly sustainable business

### **PUBLIC SECTOR CO-CHAIR**

Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)

### **PRIVATE SECTOR CO-CHAIR**

President, BGMEA

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## **Taxation Working Committee (TWC)**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To bring in reforms for tax formulation and continuous re-appraisal of tax policies and tax-laws

### **PUBLIC SECTOR CO-CHAIR**

Chairperson, National Board of Revenue

### **PRIVATE SECTOR CO-CHAIR**

President, FBCCI

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## **Trade and Investment Working Committee (T&IWC)**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To unlock the investment potentials of Bangladesh and address the issues related to trade and investment policies

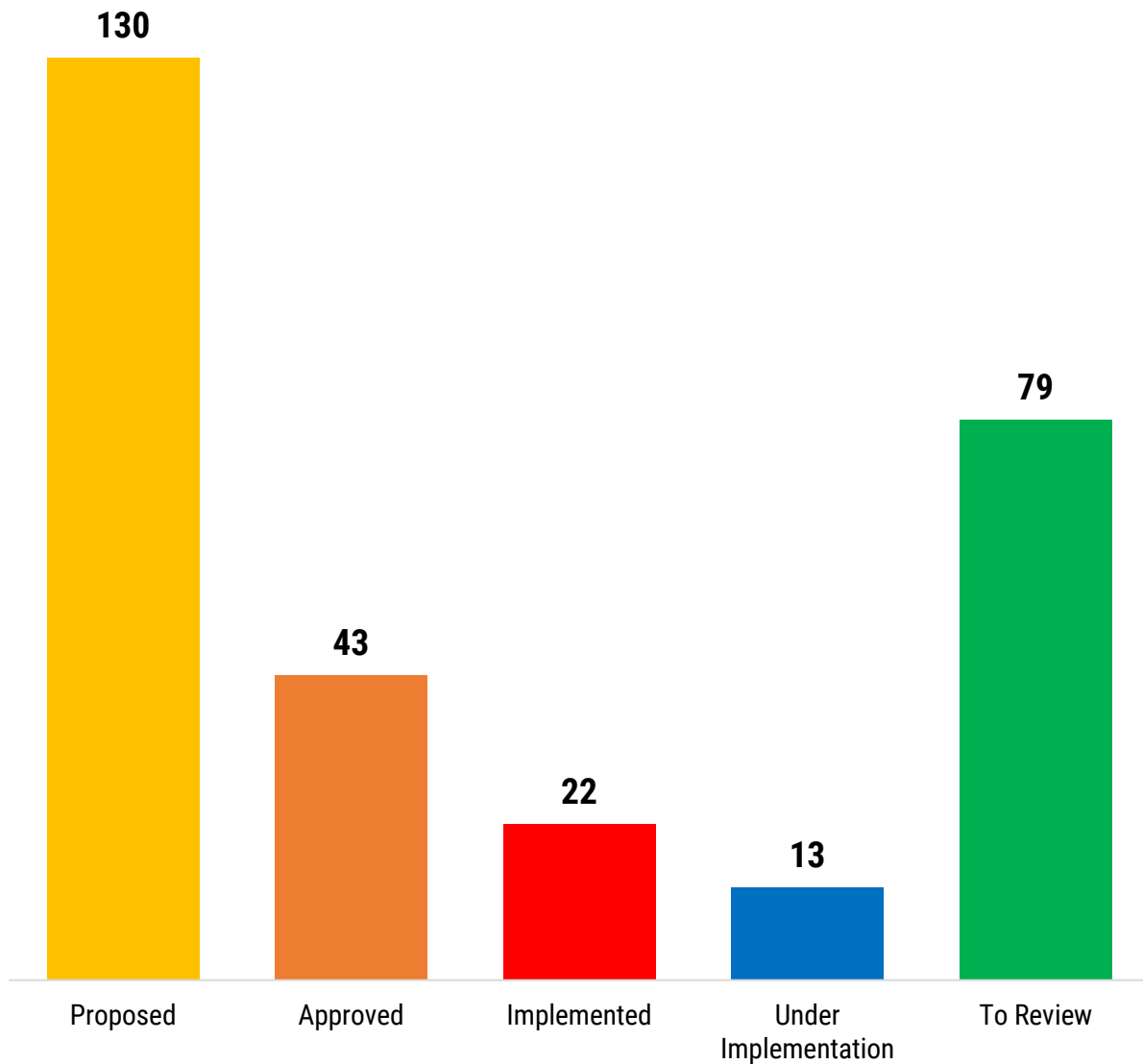
### **PUBLIC SECTOR CO-CHAIR**

Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

### **PRIVATE SECTOR CO-CHAIR**

President, MCCI

## BUILD'S COMMITMENT TO RESULTS: REFORM SCORECARD



# BUILD'S RESEARCH IN 2017

## MAJOR POLICY PAPERS IN 2017

1.

### **Guidelines for Export Cash Incentives to Boost Export**

The process of selecting items/sectors for cash incentive lacks transparency, and the criterion based on which the items/sectors are selected are unknown; it creates problems for the exporters as some pressure group may dominate the territory and exporters who have the potentials to bring export diversification may not get the benefit. The process of attaining cash incentives is complex, and some problems are faced by exporters who have been trying to identify in the study prepared by BUILD. Export subsidy encourages the exporters, and the level of encouragement is quite significant. In terms of investment decision and pricing, the impact is mixed, and there are some complexities in the process, and stakeholders had a positive response on transparency and an export subsidy guideline.

Some Countervailing Duty (CVD) and Anti-dumping Duty (AD) cases of Bangladesh have been shown, and some justifications for an export subsidy guideline have been drawn by showing the arguments of exporters; professionals and concerned bodies and validated the proposed recommendations with the Ministry of Commerce, EPB, BTC for their approval and implementation.

2.

### **Simplification of Export Process: A Case of Export Documentation**

To boost up the export growth, a hassle-free export process is mandatory. This study focuses on the simplification of export documentation to facilitate the entire export process. This study critically analysed the export process in Bangladesh, where the RMG sector is taken as a sample. The main objective behind the analysis was to capture the use of different export documents in the different steps of the export process. This study divided the entire export process into 12 steps. It also revealed that 14-18 documents are used in the total export process.

The research team at BUILD tried to identify those areas in the export process that causes complexity on export documents. After that, a comparative analysis of Bangladesh with other countries was also conducted regarding the export documentation process. BUILD recommended establishing an Inter-Ministerial Committee to study and recommend ways to reduce the number of mandatory documents required for export, along with policy reform and automation and presented in the 5<sup>th</sup> Trade and Investment Working Committee at the Ministry of Commerce for their approval and implementation. The Ministry of Commerce has already approved these recommendations and in implementation.



### 3.

#### **Simplification of Policies for Diversified Jute Products (DJP)**

Under Trade and Investment Working Committee, BUILD initiated a study on policy simplification for diversified jute products (DJP). Diversified Jute Products (DJP) have tremendous demand all over the world. SMEs are the leading suppliers of non-traditional jute goods in the international market; for that reason, competitiveness of SMEs need to be improved. The government's policy is to provide cash subsidies (10%) against the export of DJP to those who have their own jute mills.

Some of the 100% export-oriented DJP exporters, who don't have a jute mill, do not receive the benefits of cash subsidy and becoming uncompetitive. They face financial loss and cannot survive in the competition. The study tried to explore the potential to diversify its jute products and realise the higher value-added from its rich jute resources, and to provide cash subsidies for export of diversified jute products for SMEs who do not have their own jute mills but producing beautiful jute diversified products.

After finalising the report, it was presented in the 5<sup>th</sup> Trade and Investment Working Committee, and the members approved recommendations of the committee. Now the process of implementation of the approved recommendations is ongoing, and BUILD is following up regarding this.

### 4.

#### **Simplification of Policies for Service Export – A case of Indenting Business**

The importance of the service sector has been increasing day by day. In 2010 service sector earned USD 2.55 billion through export which has increased over the years gradually. In 2014, this sector remitted USD 2.75 billion. Thus, it has a

tremendous opportunity to contribute both in the domestic and export segment, and the government has announced 17 service sectors as export sectors in the Export Policy 2015-18. However, all the service sectors included in the policy cannot avail export facilities due to some procedural complexities. BUILD has conducted a study on this issue intending to suggest some timely recommendation that can be helpful for the service export sectors.

This study was presented in the 5<sup>th</sup> Trade and Investment Working Committee, and recommendations placed backed by focused research and analysis. Most of the recommendations have already been approved by the Ministry of Commerce and in the process of implementation. Rest is under the review process by the Ministry of Commerce.

### 5.

#### **Reform Policy Paper on Non-Tax Revenue (NTR)**

Non-Tax Revenue is the recurring income earned by the government from sources other than taxes. The government of Bangladesh, from time to time, increased and expanded areas of revenue. NTR areas also change; recently, the government has introduced a new gazette introducing a number of new prices for Trade License Fees; in some cases, the change is even 500% higher.

The government did not have any discussion with the private sector before introducing this new change. In this thread, BUILD has conducted a study on this issue and presented in the 5<sup>th</sup> Trade and Investment Working Committee at the Ministry of Commerce to approve and implement. As this is an inter-ministerial issue to resolve, the Ministry of Commerce has proposed to place these recommendations in the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC).

## 6.

### Harmonisation of CSR Policies in Bangladesh

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has emerged as a new area of interest for the private sector as well as for the development sector. As economies around the world harness the private sector as the engine of economic growth, the inevitable corollary has been an exploration of the role of the private sector in social development.

Bangladesh has adopted a private sector-driven economy for the last three decades. The private sector investment now accounts for 19% of the total GDP. With the growth of the private sector as the key driver of economic growth, there has also been increasing engagement by the private sector in the social development sector.

However, private sector engagement in CSR has not been brought under a coherent regulatory framework. While there have been some standalone policies by a few regulatory agencies, the government does not have a national policy to guide its regulatory oversight on the CSR activities of different industries of the country. The Banking Sector plays a crucial role in the economic development and financial system of the country. The sector has seen phenomenal development in recent years.

Given the need for a coherent regulatory framework for CSR in Bangladesh, BUILD has undertaken a study on the harmonisation of CSR policies in Bangladesh. The study would involve research and impact CSR assessment on business, public-private dialogue with relevant government organisations and businesses, policy advocacy, and publications and knowledge sharing on CSR issues.

The project would generate useful policy recommendations for the government and businesses. The project's expected impact would be stronger awareness among business, government, and the development community

about the benefits of well-managed CSR and change in policies in practices of the stakeholders.

The study has tried to gather information on why a harmonised CSR policy is essential and how it is being practised is on a piecemeal basis and cannot benefit society in an integrated manner. The brief study investigated the examples of some CSR practices carried out in the country, existing policies and how harmonisation can benefit the country. The study described the context of CSR in the country, definitions, understandings of the private and public sector by giving some examples and statistics throughout its five chapters.

CSR has been practised in the country for a long time, but it depends on the impulses of the company and the strategies are changed with the change of ownership. There are a number of questions that arises, whether it is compliance, tools for branding or legal bindings. From the policies prescribed by the Bangladesh Bank, it seems that it is bindings for the banks and financial institutions.

On the other hand, there is no mention of CSR in the Companies Act. A draft guideline has been prepared, and a committee is working under the Ministry of Planning. There is no dedicated desk in the Ministry; thus, the work is on an ad-hoc basis. The definition of CSR varies from company to company, while in some cases, some accumulated money is preserved for a specific fund called Social Obligation Fund (SOF), but how the money will be spent, no clear direction is given. Income Tax Ordinance 1984 has an exclusion list that is not aligned with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) list meant for CSR. Bangladesh Bank has a separate list with some similarities, but there are significant differences in place.

The brief study tried to bring together all these piecemeal issues together to establish the justification that there is a strong need for a Harmonized CSR policy that will have a clear meaning of CSR, how it will be integrated with the

international practices and be aligned with the achievement targets of SDGs and Vision targets so that a society and nature-friendly business environment prevails in the country.

## 7.

### **How Private Sector can do Business without Polluting Water: A Case of RMG**

Bangladesh has adopted a private sector-driven economy for more than the last three decades. The government is interested in industrialisation through the private sector but facing some challenges; one of them is to maximise the use of precious resources to take complete care of the

environment and nature so that the total ecosystem is not disturbed.

Water pollution is one of the common phenomena, which has been proved to be challenging to resolve. Especially managing identical standard in the case of the RMG sector, the challenge is considerable. This study focuses on gather information on why reducing industrial water pollution is essential and the way to reduce water pollution. This study also describes water use and pollution by textile and RMG industries, legal and policy framework on the water in Bangladesh, roles and responsibilities of the Government, SDGs and engagement of private sector and some best practices of green business.



# MAJOR REFORMS IN 2017

## MAJOR DIALOGUES IN 2017

Name of the Dialogue	Type of Dialogues
1. VAT and SD Act 2012	National ●
2. Dialogue on how the private sector can get more access to Parliamentarians for advocating business policies	Issue Specific ●
3. Woman Economic Zone	Sectoral ●
4. Water Governance and Water 2030 Dialogue at the Ministry of Water Resources management	Sectoral ●
5. Roundtable on SDG at ULAB	National ●
6. Social Management Conference of SANEM	National ●
7. Express Shipment Pilot Group Meeting	Issue Specific ●
8. Dialogue on Women Business Centre	Sectoral ●
9. Budget 2017-18 and Outward Investment from Bangladesh at PMO chaired by the SDG Coordinator	National ●
10. Dialogue on Partnership Support Advocacy for the good profit and planet UNDP	Issue Specific ●
11. Connecting Business Initiative for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response recovery at UNDP	Issue Specific ●

12.	Dialogue on Upliftment of Rural Women in Bangladesh	National ●
13.	Dialogue with Agro-sector Team of Conformity Assessment Team	International ●
14.	Dialogue on Antidumping	Issue Specific ●
15.	Dialogue with Chinese Business Association of Policy Advocacy for Chines Investment	Issue Specific ●
16.	VAT and SD Act 2012 at DCCI	National ●
17.	Dialogue on RMG and Beyond	Sectoral ●
18.	Dialogue on the Gender issue	Sectoral ●
19.	Dialogue at ILO on SDG and Private sector linkage with the Government for Implementation of SDG and participation in the HPLF	National ●
20.	Dialogue with IFC-WBG on Sector prioritisation	Sectoral ●
21.	Express Shipment Trial Run group meeting	Issue Specific ●
22.	On Sector Diversification: The Path to Group	Issue Specific ●
23.	Discussion on Budget 2017-2018	National ●
24.	On Mitigation of Trade Barriers between Bangladesh and India	Issue Specific ●
25.	Dialogue on reducing NTBs in Agriculture Trade between Bangladesh-India	International ●
26.	Dialogue on Evaluating of Textile Sustainability Platform	Sectoral ●
27.	JICA-BUILD Dialogue on Investment Promotion in the country	Sectoral ●
28.	Dialogue on Investment of Private Sector in Climate Change Adaptation and Low-carbon Deployment in Bangladesh	Issue Specific ●

# STUDIES IN 2017

- 
1. Simplification of the Policies for Repatriation
  2. SME Financing and New Alternative Investment Rules
  3. Policy Brief on Strengthening Green Financing in Bangladesh
  4. Strengthening Coordination in Water Use and Quality Management
  5. Simplification of Policies for Raising Paid-up Capital for Foreign Investors
  6. Access to Technology to Women Entrepreneurs- a study on SME entrepreneur in Bangladesh
  7. Simplification of Sample Import Policy
  8. Electrical and Electronics Sector in Bangladesh-Policy Simplification for Refrigerator Industries
  9. Simplification of Land Ownership Transfer Policy of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)
  10. VAT and SD Act 2012 and VAT for Small and Cottage Industries in Bangladesh
  11. Replication of RMG Policy benefits to other High Priority (Export) Sectors
  12. Policies for Beverage Industries in Bangladesh and its Simplification
  13. Conformity Assessment Standards in Bangladesh
  14. Support and Work with SMEs in Developing Countries for Job Creation
-



# REFORMS IN 2017

## Minimum Tax Reduced

As per Income Tax Ordinance, 1984(16 CCC), the imposition of minimum tax is allowed based on the company classification of firms. Irrespective of profit and loss, minimum tax at the rate of 0.03% is to be paid by those companies earning more than BDT 50 lacs. In 2015-16, a new provision was included to reduce the tax rate further to 0.10% for those who are engaged in manufacturing industries for at least three years. BUILD conducted a study on “Charge of Minimum Tax (Turnover Tax) according to the ITO, 1984” in 2013 and proposed some reforms.

## Simplification of Financing Policies for Women Entrepreneurs

A proposal on “Simplification of Financing Policies for Women Entrepreneurs” was presented in the 4<sup>th</sup> SME Development Working Committee Meeting and 8<sup>th</sup> PSDPCC meeting at PMO. Ministry of Industries and Bangladesh Bank has agreed to all the recommendations placed in the meeting. A definition of Women Entrepreneurs was included in the Industrial Policy 2017, and Bangladesh Bank issued a fresh circular allowing the collateral free loan to the amount of BDT 25 lacs for women entrepreneurs on 7 January 2017.

## High Priorities Sectors in the National Industrial Policy 2017

Based on the impact of trade, jobs, demand, the country's endowments and investment outlook, BUILD initiated the study to identify high priority sectors from the list of the 32 thrust sectors included in the National Industrial Policy (NIP) 2010 so that those sectors with the highest potential receive proper policy attention. The reform paper was presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSDPCC meeting held on 26 July 2012. The SME cell of the Ministry of Industries (reference letter of 27

January 2013) informed that these sectors are to be included in the NIP 2017. In the NIP 2017, these sectors have been included as high priority sectors, and some policy incentives have also been allowed to develop these sectors.

## Importance of International Commercial Terms (Incoterms)

A proposal on Import Policy Regime: Business to Bangladesh was presented in the 4<sup>th</sup> Trade and Investment Working Committee and 6<sup>th</sup> PSDPCC meeting at PMO. The Ministry of Commerce has agreed to all the recommendations placed in the meeting.

One of the proposals was the maintenance of the Incoterms by the Importers and ADs to be mandated through policy as it is essential for complying with the Trade Facilitation Agreement at the 9<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Meeting in Bali. The government has included ‘import through Incoterms’ in the Import Policy 2015-18 (Chapter 2, Clause 5).

## ADR Resolving Time Reduced

In recent time, ADR is getting popular, and a number of cases are being resolved through the ADR process. A study on alternative dispute resolution-implementation and policies was presented at BUILD's 2nd Taxation Working Committee Meeting. BUILD proposed reducing the time frame of resolving ADR cases; the Finance Act 2017 has reduced the Time from 60 to 50 days now. This policy will help business entrepreneurs to get more and quick services from ADR.

## Taxpayer's Time to Respond to the Notice Increased

In the present policy under clause 41(Uum((3), which mentioned the taxpayer need to apply for

ADR within 10 working days if any sort of judgment, show cause requirement related notice and price fixation as per clause-5 is not in his/her favour, the time has been now increased to 20 days, which will help the applicant to be ready to get a final decision.

BUILD proposed for this change through its study on Alternative Dispute Resolution-Implementation and Policies and presented at NBR.

## **Reform Implementation of Tax Policies**

BUILD prepared a study on the simplification of tax policy for the electrical and electronics sector and presented in its Taxation Working Committee meeting for rationalising tax policy and addressing hassles for importing raw materials and maintaining standard and quality issues for some selected electrical and electronic products. NBR accepted a significant number of proposals for this study.

As per proposals of BUILD to support domestic 10-120 MVA transformer manufacturers (HS code 8504.23.90), the import duty has been increased from earlier 5% to 10%. This will help domestic manufacturers to be self-sufficient in supplying transformer at the domestic level and increase export.

About 5-6 domestic UPS manufacturers are operating in the country, but a significant amount of raw material is required to be imported from overseas, of which motherboard is a significant one for UPS. NBR has agreed to reduce the duty on the motherboard accessories imported under a single HS Code from the present level of 25% to 10%.

Optical fibre cable is one of the sectors growing faster. Bangladesh is almost self-sufficient in producing this product. However, a number of raw materials used for this sector are imported, such as Polyester Tape (HS code 3919.10.00), Jelly Compound (HS code 3824.90.90). NBR is considering duty reduction of these raw materials

which are not produced in the country to support this sector.

## **Reform Implementation of ADR**

A study on Alternative Dispute Resolution-Implementation and Policies was presented at BUILD's 2nd Taxation Working Committee Meeting. BUILD proposed reducing the timeframe of resolving ADR cases. ADR resolving timeline has been reduced to 0 days from 60 days (SRO no. 53-AIN/2012/632/VAT).

For applying against any notice, the time duration for the applicant is 20 working days now instead of 10 working days (SRO no. 53-AIN/2012/632/VAT). BUILD proposed for enhancement of time for getting applicant ready to reply to the notice.

## **Reform Implementation of Tax Policies**

BUILD placed few issues regarding overhead costs of establishing branch offices for Banks through its 4th Financial Sector Development Working Committee (FSDWC) Meeting held on 29 December 2014, and in response, Bangladesh Bank revised the issues and brought the following changes:

- The maximum space criterion has been extended to 6000sqft from 5000sqft for the urban branches vide BRPD Circular Letter No-09, dated -26 July 2017.
- The maximum space criterion has been extended to 3000sqft from 2000sqft for the rural branches vide BRPD Circular Letter No-09, dated- 26 July 2017.
- Maximum expenses other than IT for branch set up was at BDT 1,500/sqft, for moving existing branch, the amount was set at BDT 1,000/sqft vide BRPD Circular Letter No-01, dated- 16 January 2014. Analysing the market data, BB still thinks the current limit should remain unchanged. BB will continue to keep an eye on this issue and modify the limits as and when they felt necessary.

## **Tax on Vehicle Registration**

BUILD placed an issue regarding a specific law to collect tax on vehicle registration in Income tax Ordinance (ITO) 1984 (presently it is done by issuing an SRO every year) through its Budget Proposals by Taxation Working Committee (TWC). In response, NBR approved the issues, and by the Finance Act 2017, they inserted a new section 68 B in the ITO 1984 regarding advanced tax for the owner of the private motor car.

## **Trademark Registration for SMEs in Bangladesh**

A proposal for Trademark Registration for SMEs in Bangladesh was presented in the 4th SME Development Working Committee. Ministry of Industries agreed to implement the recommendations placed in the meeting.

Some significant recommendations included the inclusion of service mark rules in the new Trademark Rules 2015 and journal publication through the DPDT website. The government has already incorporated service mark in the new Trademark Rules 2015 and journal publication through the DPDT website.

# PSDPCC

The Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) is the only strategic public sector platform for private sector-related policy review, coordination, identification of investment barriers and fostering public-private cooperation. It was established as per Government Notification no. 03.068.022.03.00.24.2011-377 on 12 September 2011, by the Prime Minister's Office. The committee is chaired by the Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office and represented by all corresponding ministries mainly involved in trade and business with a provision of co-option of other members as and when necessary. Objectives of the committee involve: improving enabled policy environment for private sector development, achieving the strategic goals as determined in SFYP for Private Sector Development, helping to create an investment-friendly environment to attract more FDI, coordinating both public and private sectors for better business, and reviewing the progress of implementation of Private Sector Development (PSD) reforms to identify roadblocks to execution and devise strategies to overcome roadblocks.

**The committee sits at regular intervals to review all related activities for private sector development initiated by both public and private sectors and make recommendations; to review the overall investment scenario in the private sector and set out ways to improve it; identify bottlenecks in private sector development and suggest suggestions with a view to removing all blockages, and to recommend actions for building mutual cooperation between public and private sectors for the private sector development (PSD).**

# MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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## Chair

Principal Secretary, PMO

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### Public Sector

Senior Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

Secretary, IRD, Ministry of Finance

Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning

Secretary, Roads and Highway Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges

Secretary, Bridges Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges

Secretary, Ministry of Industries

Secretary, Information and Communication Technology Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology

Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest

Executive Chairperson (Acting Secretary), BEPZA

Deputy Governor-1, Bangladesh Bank

Member 3, Board of Investment

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### Private Sector

President, FBCCI

President, MCCI

President, DCCI

President, CCCI

CEO, PPP Office

MD, SME Foundation

President, FICCI



# PSDPCC MEETINGS IN 2017



Principal Secretary Md. Abul Kalam Azad presides over the meeting at PMO's Conference Room along with the representatives from the public and private sectors.

## 8<sup>th</sup> PSDPCC Underscored Policy Simplification Needs for CSR and Financing for WE Development

The eighth PSDPCC meeting discussed the need to simplify policies for CSR for banks, manufacturing of boilers in Bangladesh, financing of Women Entrepreneurs (WE), including bank charges rationalisation to reduce the cost of doing business.

At the meeting of PSDPCC, the Principal Secretary Md. Abul Kalam Azad underlined the need for a CSR policy, implementation of housing for tea workers and low-cost funding for private sector development. Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), which provides technical, secretarial support to PCC,

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**We do appreciate the initiatives of BUILD and PMO for policy reforms through PSDPCC. We request to hold the meeting quarterly to double the impact of its results on the business.**

**Akhter Matin Chowdhury**  
VP, MCCI

placed four reform policy papers. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum proposed several areas for reforms and the enactment of new laws wherever required. The meeting underscored the idea of the economic zone for women entrepreneurs and agreed to form a high-level committee for a national CSR Policy. While discussing the issue of CSR policies, BUILD Chairperson Asif Ibrahim highlighted the need for more significant funding in the form of CSR research. This would enable the sustainability of supportive research-based CSR and related policy reform initiatives carried out by the private sector.

While discussing boiler manufacturing and boiler quality, FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmed extolled to simplify all the policy issues for the private sector development and suggested that the private industry should come forward and have self-certification. He also specified lowering the spread by the bank at 2% in an attempt to reduce the interest rate. Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, Senior Secretary, Ministry of

Commerce; Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Planning Commission Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Azam, AHM Rezaul Kabir, ndc, Secretary General of DCCI; Dr M. Masrur Reaz, Program Manager and Mohammed Lutfullah, Operations Officer of Trade and Competitiveness, World Bank Group were present, among others, and spoke at the meeting.

## REVIEW MEETING OF PSDPCC IN 2017



Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Secretary of PMO, presides over the meeting in the presence of all Co-Chairs of WCs of BUILD.

### The Thrust of Expediting Reforms at the Review Meeting with All WC Co-Chairs

Under the auspices of the PSDPCC, the PMO and BUILD held the meeting for the first time with all the working committee co-chairs of BUILD who are both from public and private sectors in a bid to review the status of reforms undertaken so far at PMO on 5 September 2017. The meeting was chaired by Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Secretary of PMO, while Suraiya Begum, Secretary of Prime Minister's Office, welcomed the representatives and opened the discussion.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum informed the meeting that BUILD has already tabled 422 reform proposals through all working committees and

finally placed them through the PSDPCC at the Prime Minister's Office and 101 reforms are already in effect, and the bodies of the government are reviewing the rest. She also updated the status of reforms under each working committee. Taking a cue from the BUILD CEO, the Principal Secretary requested respective departments of the government to ponder action for implementing the reforms which are already tabled and instructed the representative to join another review meeting within three weeks to update of implementation status and report through BUILD to the Policy Coordination Unit of PMO by the sixth week. After the review meeting,

the 9th PSDPCC Meeting will take place in October 2017. Md. Nojibur Rahman, Chairperson of NBR who co-chairs the Taxation Working Committee of BUILD, said that this platform in the form of public-private dialogue represented by all stakeholders is an exceptionally dynamic and timely initiative for the business growth of the country. “We will soon review the proposals placed by BUILD”, he said. Syed Nasim Manzur, Chairperson of BUILD, demanded the government reduce the time for availing of low-cost Export Development Fund and make this fund open to other sectors. He said that the central bank had increased the limit of the low-cost Export Development Fund for apparel exporters to USD 20 million from the existing USD 15 million, which

is a great effort of the Bangladesh Bank. However, regrettably, it takes roughly 30 days to avail of this fund.

The meeting was attended by Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to BUILD, Md. Shafiul Islam, Acting President of FBCCI, Md. Siddiquir Rahman, President of BGMEA, Sushen Chandra Das, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, Additional Secretary (Development), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Shubhashish Bose, Director General (Additional Secretary), WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce, Swapan Kumar Roy, General Manager, Bangladesh Bank and Mobarak Hossain, Executive Director, Bangladesh Bank.

# WORKING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 2017

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT



▲ The 5th Trade and Investment Working Committee (T&IWC) meeting of BUILD at the MCCI Conference Room on 3 May 2017.

### T&I Meeting: BUILD Research Underscored Necessary Business Reforms

BUILD presented five policy papers at its T&I Working Committee Meeting held at the conference room of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI). Though the government had earlier hiked the Trade License fees by an average rate of 263% in March 2015, it had to reduce the fees again on 31 January this year in the wake of massive protests by the business and trade leaders and organisations.

“Despite the cut in fees, 66.78% trade licence fees still remain unchanged as some of the fees for licences have been increased due to the new imposition of 15% Value Added Tax on fees and

surcharges,” said BUILD Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ferdaus Ara Begum. She also said: “All these policies will increase the cost of doing business.”

During the meeting, BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara

Begum presented several time-bound policy papers on simplification of export documentation for bringing simplicity in doing business, simplification of policies for service export – a case of indenting service, export subsidy guidelines: maximising export support, non-tax revenue (NTR), trade and business license fees



and simplification of policies for diversified jute products. During her presentation, Ferdaus Ara underscored the need for setting up a high-powered inter-ministerial committee involving all agencies supporting exports. She also suggested that the country requires a comprehensive Export Subsidy Guideline that should be prepared and circulated along with all qualifying criterion of exporters, their lengths, and rates, impacts, along with the preparation of the private sector.

BUILD has also suggested simplifying the certification process to catch up with the huge

demand for jute goods in the developed countries, establishing a service export promotion council soon under the leadership of the commerce ministry.

During the meeting, Senior Secretary of Commerce Ministry Hedayetullah Al Mamoon

also stressed the need for the simplification of business policies for substantial growth of the business sector. The MCCI Vice President Akter Matin Chowdhury (check spelling) said that policies should be improved further to advance our business growth, and BUILD should continue its efforts in simplifying business policies.

Afroza Khanom, CCI&E Chief, MD. Khairul Anam, Executive Member of BOI, Director of WTO Md. Hafizur Rahman, Abdus Sattar Sheikh, Deputy Secretary of MOC, Md. Saiful Islam, President, LFMEAB, M. S. Siddiqui, President of BIAA, First Secretary (Tax) of NBR, Farooq Ahmed, Secretary General of MCCI, DCCI Secretary General AHM Rezaul Kabir, MD. Abdul Awal Sarker, GM of Bangladesh Bank, Nurun Nahar Sultana, DGM of Bangladesh Bank, and Md. Nazeem H. Sattar, DGM of SME Foundation, Mir Shariful Bashar, Executive Officer of Business Promotion Council, MOC were present, among others.



▲ Syed Nasim Manzur, Chairman of BUILD; Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, ndc, Senior Secretary of MOC; Mahbubul Alam, President of CCCI; and Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to BUILD, seen in the meeting.

## Trade and Investment Working Committee Reviews Its Implementation of Reforms

The Ministry of Commerce and BUILD held a comprehensive meeting with all relevant departments of the government and the private sector at the Secretariat on 5 October 2017, in

order to review the status of reforms placed by the Trade and Investment Working Committee of BUILD. The meeting was jointly chaired by Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, ndc, Senior Secretary,

Ministry of Commerce and Syed Nasim Manzur, Chairperson, BUILD, who co-chairs the Trade and Investment Working Committee.

Following the proposal of BUILD, the Chief Controller of Export and Import has started working for the online issuance and renewal of IRC and ERC along with documents and payment submission online, and this work will end in the next three months,” the commerce secretary informed the meeting. He also added that we require extended cooperation of a number of agencies to avoid procrastination for implementing reforms in trade and investment. He also agreed to the proposal of BUILD for scrapping the provision of including 15 per cent VAT on registration and renewal fees for import, export, and trade licenses in the import policy order 2015-18 as fixing the rate of VAT is the prerogative of NBR.

Endorsing the proposal of the Commerce Secretary, BUILD Chairperson Nasim Manzur said the absence of the collective voice of the chambers and associations for years has hit the

businesses, and BUILD can act as a representative of all chambers and associations in addressing trade measure issues where the Ministry of Commerce will extend all technical supports and arrange to fund. Highlighting the requirements of export documentation and BUILD proposal, Syed Nasim Manzur requested the Senior Secretary to form an inter-ministerial committee to reduce the number of documentations, thus reducing the cost of doing business and business start-up hassles.

In response, the Commerce Secretary endorsed the proposal and agreed to form a committee and include Bangladesh Bank, EPB, NBR, BUILD, and CCI&E to work on this issue. The meeting also decided that CCI&E will upload the BUILD brochure on export and import on its website, and the Ministry of Commerce will sign an MOU with BUILD for promoting trade and investment in the country. The meeting was attended by Mahbubul Alam, President CCCI, Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to BUILD Trustee Board, Ali Ahmed, CEO of BFT and Afroza Khan, CCI&E Chief, Hafizur Rahman, Director of WTO and other high officials of MOC.

## **Taxation Working Committee Sought Strong Public-Private Partnership**

The second Taxation Working Committee (TWC) Meeting discussed the need to simplify policies for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Audit, and Supportive Tax for Electrical, Electronics sector, Manufacturing and Assembling Policies for Motorcycle Industries including an Issue Brief on Tax Card. On behalf of the NBR Chairperson, Md. Farid Uddin Ahmed, Member (Customs) of NBR, presided over the meeting and underlined the need for collaboration between the private and public sector engagement. He informed that in order to extend the benefits of ADR in the field of VAT, a consolidated formula of the entire ADR could be developed, and in this thread, BUILD can work on it. On behalf of NBR, he endorsed all recommendations placed at the meeting. In respect of ADR, BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum advocated for establishing a robust ADR Cell (with a Secretariat) in NBR for gearing up the revenue engine, and she also underlined for

strengthening the independent role of facilitators. The NBR agreed to this proposal and ensured that they would examine these areas of ADR for implementation.

In connection with the audit study, BUILD CEO said, “in our present system, commissioner approval is required to assess all types of omission or errors that are cumbersome and time-consuming. The Joint Commissioner of Tax can approve these issues to save the time of the taxpayers. In India, JCT can approve these issues and save time for audit process”. Therefore, she argues to skip the commissioner’s approval for any assessment (as per the current practice) where the case is below BDT one million and in

case of sensitive issues and higher-level cases Commissioner’s approval can be required. For ADR, Md Abdur Razzaque, Member (Tax Admin),





Principal Secretary Md. Abul Kalam Azad presides over the meeting at PMO's Conference Room along with the representatives from the public and private sectors.

enlightened the meeting and added, “audit system is already in progress for implementation and NBR will go for automation immediately. Having implemented the automation, the number of TIN Holders increases to 1.8 million while taxpayers are 1.2 million. (Before automation, the taxpayer was 0.8 million)”. He also said that the Tariff itself is a burdensome and complex area. We try our utmost to simplify the tax regime, and the private sector should step up for working out these issues with regarded research. As well as audit and ADR Study, she presented a couple of papers on Supportive Tax for Electrical and Electronics Manufacturing and Motorcycle Industries.

DCCI President Hossain Khaled praised the concept of Tax Card, and he requested NBR to make the card into a smart card that holds all required information of an entrepreneur of NBR in order to reduce hassles, as was proposed by BUILD.

BUILD Chairperson Asif Ibrahim expressed thanks to everyone for attending the meeting and requested NBR to host the taxation working committee at regular intervals. He mentioned that NBR Chairperson and FBCCI President are two co-chairs of the committee, and NBR and FBCCI can play an active role in resolving all private sector issues for faster growth of the private sector.

Md. Shawkat Ali Waresi, Additional Secretary of MOC; Parvez Iqbal, Member of Tax Policy, NBR; DCCI Senior Vice President Humayun Rashid, Manzur Ahmed, FBCCI Advisor; Abdul Khaleque, Additional Secretary of FBCCI, Biplop Kumar Roy, Head of Operations, TVS Auto Bangladesh and Adul Khalek, Director of Berger were present, among others, in the meeting and represented each sector and presented their independent views on the policy reform proposals made by BUILD before the validation of the proposals.

## Taxation Working Committee Review Its Implementation of Reforms

NBR and BUILD held an inclusive meeting in a bid to review the status of reforms placed by the Taxation Working Committee of BUILD so far at NBR on 27 September 2017. The meeting was jointly chaired by Md. Nojibur Rahman, Chairperson of NBR and Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President of FBCCI, who co-chairs the Taxation Working Committee of BUILD. Upon the approval

of the Chairperson of NBR, BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum appraised that BUILD has already tabled 83 reform proposals through its Taxation Working Committee and finally placed them through the PSDPCC at the PMO, and roughly one-third of the proposed reforms are already in operation, and the corresponding bodies of the government are reviewing the rest.



▲ Md. Nojibur Rahman, Chairman of NBR, and Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President of FBCCI, were present in the meeting.

In response, the meeting was told that NBR has already issued an SRO (155-Law 2017/17/Customs) on 2 June 2017 that encourages the domestic motorcycle industry with incentives. In this context, the FBCCI President said that the present SRO supported progressive manufacturing policy and requested NBR to keep the earlier SRO intact that lets the present manufacturing entrepreneurs run their business as usual while CKD+ entrepreneurs will avail room to join as manufacturers in phases.

Regarding UPS (HS Code 8504.40.20), NBR agreed to increase the import duty at the rate of 10 per cent, which was earlier 5.0 per cent and concerning the UPS battery (HS Code 8507.20.10), they agreed to increase the import duty at the rate of 20 per cent from 15 per cent following the proposals of BUILD. Additionally, NBR accepted ten more proposals of BUILD in the last budget. A list of proposals accepted by NBR was handed over to BUILD at the meeting. The NBR Chief appreciated the proposals of BUILD and expected that NBR, BUILD, and FBCCI will be working jointly in the coming days for holding an

inclusive budget dialogue in order to collect scrutinised and implementable proposals. In order for increasing accumulated revenue generation and strengthening ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution), the chambers and associations will open ADR cells in their secretaries, and FBCCI will lead the role in setting up ADR cells, the meeting decided. Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to BUILD Trustee Board, thanked NBR for holding this follow-up meeting of the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) and requested the NBR Chairperson to review the VAT on trade licenses that will open more businesses and generate employment in the country.

Taking a cue from the BUILD CEO, the NBR Chairperson requested respective departments of the NBR to ponder action for implementing the already tabled reforms and instructed the representative to join the Taxation Working Committee Meeting on 27 October 2017. BUILD will report the developments of the meeting to the coming PSDPCC meeting at PMO.

## Financial Sector Development Working Committee Review Its Implementation of Reforms

The Bangladesh Bank and BUILD held an inclusive review meeting in a bid to review the status of reforms placed by the Financial Sector Development Working Committee (FSDWC), which is co-chaired by the Deputy Governor of

Bangladesh Bank (BB) and the President of DCCI. The meeting was chaired by S.K. Sur Chowdhury, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank who welcomed the representatives and opened the discussion. The meeting took place at the



▲ S. K. Sur Chowdhury, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank, chairs the FSDWC meeting of BUILD at Bangladesh Bank.

Conference Room of BB on 2 October 2017. At the very beginning, BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum put in the picture that BUILD has already tabled 80 reform proposals through its Financial Sector Development Working Committee and finally placed them through the PSDPCC at the Prime Minister's Office. She said that we have already implemented 16 proposals through PSDPCC, and they are already in place, and 42 approved, awaiting implementation the rest (35) is being reviewed by the corresponding bodies of the government. In regard to EEF, the Bangladesh Bank agreed to the proposal of BUILD to reduce the number of instalments to three, which was previously four. BUILD requested BB to count the buy-back period after getting the final instalment of EEF support (R) which BB also agreed, but BB will review it further before implementation.

In order to increase the local currency quota for using foreign currency for drug registration and renewal, BB will ponder actions to increase the limit of foreign currency, which is now USD 10 thousand from the foreign currency account.

Moreover, BUILD requested to include more non-traditional sectors for EDF (based on Bulk-based import criteria). In this respect, S.K. Sur said that we very much look forward to EDF services to non-traditional and non-RMG exporters, and we are also keen to provide an EDF supportive scheme for exporters, he added.

BB informed that the maximum space has been extended to 3000 sqft from 2500 sqft for setting up new branches of banks in rural areas and to 6000 sqft from 5000 sqft in city area following the proposal of BUILD.

Besides, BUILD presented policy papers on encouraging factoring for WEs, collateral-free loan for women, reduced documents, SME financing, enhancing technology access for women. The meeting was attended by K. Atique-E-Rabbani, FCA, Vice President of DCCI, who also took part in the discussion, especially in the ICT sector. Nirmal Chandra Bhakta, ED of BB and other senior officials of BB were also present to put comments on the specific reform proposals of BUILD.

## **SME Development Working Committee Review Its Implementation of Reforms**

The Ministry of Industries (MOI) and BUILD held an inclusive meeting at the Ministry of Industries on 2 November 2017 to review the status of reforms placed so far by the SME Development Working Committee (SMEDWC) of BUILD. Senior Secretary of MOI Md Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, ndc. and President of Chittagong Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Md. Mahbubul Alam co-chaired the meeting. The Industries Senior Secretary welcomed all representatives and gave the floor to BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum to place the reform proposals.

Upon the approval of the Meeting Chairs, BUILD





MOI Senior Secretary and CCCI President co-chair the meeting at MOI.

CEO told that BUILD has already tabled 37 reform proposals through its SMEDWC and finally placed through the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) at the Prime Minister's Office, and 16 of the proposed reforms are already in place, and the rest is being examined by the corresponding bodies of the government for implementation.

In reply to a proposal of BUILD for establishing a Monitoring Cell for Women Entrepreneurs (WE) in the MOI, Senior Secretary of MOI told that the WE are coming up with different ventures, but are facing several problems, particularly in the field of access to finance and technology, we need a solid wing to monitor all issues encountered by the WE. Echoing the Senior Secretary, the CCCI President said that women constitute roughly half of the total population and around 20% of the business, and our government has effective policies for the WE, but they are not currently

availing the extended collateral-free financing up to BDT 2.5 million. In most of the cases, Banks provide 1-2 lakh, which is not good enough for them to start a small business, he added. In this respect, the meeting requested to involve Bangladesh Bank more extensively to look after this type of issues.

The meeting was attended by Md. Shusen Chandra Das, Additional Secretary, Parag, Additional Secretary, Yasmin Sultana, Joint Secretary, Md. Salim Ullah, Senior Assistant Secretary of MOI, Mustak Iftekhar, Chairperson, BSCIC, Engr. Abdul Mannan, Chief Inspector, Boiler Office, Md. Shafiqul Islam, Managing Director, SMEF, Sanwar Hossain, Registrar, Md. Obaidur Rahman, Deputy Register (Trademark), DPDT and AHM Rezaul Kabir, Secretary General, DCCI, among others.

## Sustainability and Green Growth Working Committee Launched

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and BUILD jointly held an introductory meeting at the Secretariat on 18 October 2017 in a bid to formalising the Sustainability and Green Growth working committee. The meeting co-chaired by Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Secretary, MoEF and Md. Siddiqur Rahman, President of BGMEA, also discussed the Terms of Reference (ToR) and membership composition of the committee.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum initially briefed the meeting about the activities of the committee

and membership composition. She also broadly put light on the objectives, which include addressing the key challenges of climate, strengthening the transformational capacity of the private sector, and holding structured dialogue to enrich the knowledge of both private and public sectors about where we are and what should be accomplished in achieving sustainability and resilience. The MoEF Secretary appreciated the private sector's initiative and agreed to take steps to create enabling environments for the platform.



MoEF Secretary and BGMEA President co-chair the first meeting of the working committee at MoEF.

It is a positive intent of the private sector that they enhanced and expanded efforts to identify and address significant knowledge gaps in green growth and practice, and to help us design and implement policies to move towards a green economy while the government is encouraging the private sector to green business, says Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed.

Taking a cue from the Environment Secretary, Md. Siddiqur Rahman, President of BGMEA, ensured that BGMEA would extend all supports for the platform and requested BUILD to hold a meeting with the corresponding wing of BGMEA in order to identify sectoral and products specific action which can be implemented through this working committee.

Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to BUILD, recognised green growth as an inherent part of sustainable development that could enable the government to leapfrog old technologies in many sectors. Like other BUILD committees, the committee will sit in regular intervals and report to the Private Sector Development Policy Committee at the Prime Minister's Office.

UNDP will technically support this Working Committee. The meeting was attended by Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, MoEF Arif M. Faisal, Programme Specialist, Climate Change, UNDP, and other officials of MoEF and BUILD.

# BUILD'S PROJECTS IN 2017



Representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, BUILD, ITC, and BFTI launched a Training on Transparency in Trade Procedure on 2 October 2017.

## Training on Transparency in Trade Procedure Launched

The training project is being implemented jointly by BUILD and BFTI under the guidance of the Ministry of Commerce with the support from International Trade Centre (ITC). A delegation from ITC and UNCTAD were present at the Launching Ceremony. Elodie Robin, Quantitative Market Analyst, Guillaume Favre, International Consultant from ITC and Vianney Lesaffre,

Consultant from UNCTAD, introduced the participants to the project. Under the project the BFTI, BUILD will launch web-based documentation procedures of exports to the EU, Japan, and the Middle East. The idea was generated from the Business Start-up Licensing Guidebook of BUILD.

## Trade Through Transparent Administrative Procedures

BUILD, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) under the Ministry of Commerce (MOC), has implemented a "Transparency in Trade Procedures" project with

the support of the International Trade Center (ITC), Geneva. The project's objective was to document the administrative procedure of exporting certain products and publish it online





## Your step-by-step guide to investment related procedures in Bangladesh

eRegulations Bangladesh is an online database designed to provide investors and entrepreneurs with full transparency on investment related procedures in Bangladesh: at each step, the system tells you where to go, who to see, what you must bring, what you have to pay, what you will get, what is the legal justification, who to complain to in case you have a problem. Click on the procedures to begin!

### ▲ A snapshot of the portal

using the eRegulations tool. eRegulations is a web-based tool developed by UNCTAD to help governments make rules and procedures fully transparent and to facilitate business, trade and investment.

BUILD and BFTI team members were trained by ITC and UNCTAD delegates at the beginning of the project on eRegulations. The five-day training was inaugurated through the project launching ceremony, attended by Elodie Robin, Quantitative Market Analyst, Guillaume Favre, International Consultant from ITC and Vianney Lesaffre, Consultant from UNCTAD. Hafizur Rahman, Director-1 WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce, Ali Ahmed, CEO, BFTI, Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, Amitava Chakraborty, Director, BFTI and participants from BUILD and BFTI were present at the event.

For the 1st phase (October-December 2017) of the project, two products, namely fresh vegetables and live and chilled fish, were selected in consultation with the Ministry of

Commerce to document their export procedure. As the first step for documentation, the authorities and other key stakeholders involved in the export procedure of fresh vegetable were identified. The entities were subsequently contacted and briefed about the project objective and activities, requesting their cooperation. The team from BUILD and BFTI conducted interviews with all relevant stakeholders such as Chief Controller of Import and Export, Bangladesh Fruits, Vegetables, and Allied Products Exporters Association, and Custom House, to name a few. Photographs were also taken of the entities in charge, units in charge and persons in charge for each step of the procedure. In this phase, in total, four procedures have been documented: (i) export fresh vegetables to the EU market; (ii) export of fresh vegetables to the Middle East market; (iii) export of live and chilled fish to the Chinese market; and (iv) export of live and chilled fish to Middle East market.

All required information for proper documentation for each procedure was collected in one-to-one

interviews with the relevant stakeholders. The collected information was later verified through second meetings with the key informants. At present, the eRegulations website is only visible to the Project Team. The relevant authority will validate the information on each step before the website is made accessible to the public.

One unique aspect of eRegulations is that it includes, as samples, photographs or scanned copies of all required documents and the certificates, licenses and other papers provided

by the stakeholders which are necessary to successfully complete a procedure, in this case, exporting fresh vegetables. Each step of the procedure also includes photos of the contact person, the unit responsible for that particular step/activity and the entity in charge. Obtaining the photographs has also been one of the most challenging activities in this project as most of the government agencies require permission from the head of the agency to allow photographic documentation, which, in some cases, delayed the documentation process.

## **BUILD and UNDP for National Capacity and Environment**

BUILD and UNDP Bangladesh have signed a Micro- Capital Grant Agreement on 22 August 2017 for implementing a project on Enhanced national capacity and promotion of an enabling environment for resilience, better service delivery to the poor and vulnerable and redressing grievances.

UNDP Bangladesh Country Director Paulene Thamesis and BUILD Chairperson Syed Nasim Manzur signed on each behalf on the deal. The two bodies have agreed to form a PPD Platform and formalise a 5th working committee on Sustainability and Green Growth and start meeting with the public and private sectors.

Under the project, BUILD will also conduct a study on how the private sector can do Business without Polluting Water: A case of Ready-Made garments and the Harmonisation of CSR Policies in Bangladesh. The Project will prepare some relevant publications, organise workshops, FGDs to collect and collate inputs from the private sector. This project will primarily work for raising awareness- how the private sector can do business without polluting the environment.

BUILD Features public-private dialogue on four thematic working areas: SME Development Working Committee, Taxation Working Committee, Financial Sector Development Working Committee, Trade and Investment Working Committee. There are co-chairs from

both public and private sectors in each committee, mainly by the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and the Chamber Leaders. Following the design of the working areas, BUILD, in association with MoEF, UNDP and BGMEA, will feature dialogue Sustainable Business for Growth and Development (SBGDWC).

In the 5th Working Committee, two Co-Chairs, one from the private sector (BGMEA President) and another from the public sector (MoEF Secretary), will conduct meetings. The proposed Co-Chairs are Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and President, BGMEA and the working committee will be supported by a strong independent Secretariat that will undertake much of the analysis and advocacy to support the dialogue process, and assist in ensuring that BUILD develops specific, measurable, and results-based recommendations in terms of sustainability and green growth for the government to implement.

The working committee will help both public and private sectors shoulder the responsibility as a joint force for capacity building of the private sector in respect of attaining sustainable business ventures, which can result in green growth and safer production aligning with the goal of the 7th Five-year Plan and SDGs.

A series of activities will be implemented under this agreement along with UNDP, which will be

performed in three stages. The impact of this agreement, however, is when this permanent change is brought in the way the Government and private sector work together to achieve the nation's development goals and ensure a sustainable and green Bangladesh. The deliverable of this initiative includes: a PPD platform established and formalized (formalization of 5th Working Committee, stakeholder mapping and updating, meeting with the concerned public and private sector people,

working paper, working committee meeting, minutes preparation and circulation); how private sector can do business without polluting water: a case of RMG (developing a strategy and an action plan, FGD, meeting with leading chambers/associations/public/private sector, publications); harmonizing CSR policies in Bangladesh (developing strategy and an action plan with private sector, meeting with leading chambers/associations/public/private sector, publications).

# BUILD'S DIALOGUE IN 2017



▲ The new BUILD Trustee Board had a meeting with Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Office (PMO) on 27 July 2017.

## **BUILD Trustee Board meets PS to Prime Minister**

The meeting discussed how BUILD and the PMO could collaborate further in areas of research, policy, and advocacy for private sector development. The Trustee Board Members comprised of BUILD Chairperson Syed Nasim Manzur, Trustee Board Advisor Asif Ibrahim, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Hossain Khaled and BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum.

BUILD Chairperson Syed Nasim Manzur shortly put light on the meeting agenda and briefed about the organisation's upcoming and overall activities and sought the PMO's attention to the

5th Working Committee named Sustainable Business for Growth and Development and why it is crucial to start working for sustainable business.

The Principal Secretary instantly endorsed the committee and said that the government encourages setting up industries in economic zones, not in residential areas considering the environmental degradation. He assured that the PMO would ponder actions to officiate the framework of the committee. He appreciated the formation of the new committee, which will work as a conduit to formalize the decisions of the

government in a model of public-private collaboration. Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to the Trustee Board of BUILD, said that BUILD rotates its functions through different working groups co-chaired chiefly by the government's Secretaries and one from the private sector.

In this connection and added information of other working committees, BUILD stands as a formalized structured Public-Private Dialogue

platform. BUILD Chairperson urged that we need process simplification and improve our position in the cost of doing business, and due to stalled regulatory reforms, we cannot lose our position in the ranking of ease of doing business. DCCI President Hossain Khaled echoing the BUILD Chairperson's voice, referred to the recent price hike of gas and other utilities causing a severe drawback to the growth of the business.



From left, Dr M. Mashrur Reaz, Program Manager, The World Bank Group; Asif Ibrahim, Adviser of BUILD Trustee Board; Ali Sabet, Team Leader of Bangladesh INSPIRED, are seen at the dialogue.

## BUILD Holds Dialogue on Budget: Thrust on Frequent Private-Public Sector Interactions

Speakers at a dialogue on the proposed national budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2017-17 emphasised frequent discussions among the private and public enterprises for bridging implementation gaps of the announced budget.

The thrust was made at the dialogue organised by BUILD and Bangladesh INSPIRED, and DCCI to take stock of the policies announced in the budget and how SMEs can be benefited from the announced policies. Two keynote speeches on



SME and Women Entrepreneurship Development and Technology access for Women Entrepreneurs were presented by Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO BUILD and Luna Shamsuddoha, Director, SMEF, to highlight the SME development policies, their constraints and implementation barriers.

The presentation from BUILD highlighted essential features of the recently announced budget along with policies and challenges to meeting the targets of industrial developments and investment attraction with some specific examples of SME sectors, such as ICT, light engineering etc. for which some policy changes have been declared but because of stringent and complex implementation patterns benefits may not be availed by the SMEs.

The presentation made by Luna Shamsuddoha referred to the gender budget prepared by the Ministry of industries, but women are not in the mainstream because of some clarity. She referred to mobile technology, cloud computing, and analytics could be some of the key drivers that help leading innovation. Taking cue of the speech of BUILD Trustee Board Adviser Asif Ibrahim, she suggested that social media can be a platform for SME network for Women entrepreneurs.



**The presentation from BUILD highlighted essential features of the recently announced budget along with policies and challenges to meeting the targets of industrial developments and investment attraction with some specific examples of SME sectors, such as ICT, light engineering etc. for which some policy changes have been declared but because of stringent and complex implementation patterns benefits may not be availed by the SMEs.**

Dr Abdul Mazid, the former Chairperson of NBR, as a panellist, suggested for result-oriented and protection-oriented policy for SME development. Customs, NBR Member Farid Uddin, appreciating and agreeing all the proposals of BUILD,

mentioned that all related budget proposals for reforms from the business communities should be coming through the concerned ministries, but presently they are getting proposals directly.

Dr M. Mashrur Reaz, Program Manager, The World Bank Group, said Budget is important, but it has some limitations; unless other comparable policies are synchronized, the budget cannot do anything. In this connection, he referred to the 103 years old Companies Act, for which

they were working since long, but it was not updated. In regard to "lagged implementation," he expressed his genuine concern about VAT and SD Act implementation, for which a USD 60 million automation project is in the process, which will be meaningless if the new VAT and SD Act is not in full operation. Among others, INSPIRED Bangladesh Team Leader Ali Sabet, former DCCI President Motiur Rahman, Ex-NBR Member Shabuddin, DU Assistant Professor Rashudur Rahma, DCCI Secretary Rezaul Kabir participated in the dialogue.

## **BUILD Trustee Board Members Meet the EU Ambassador**

BUILD Trustee Board Members urged the European Union to invest more in Bangladesh for higher business between the two trading partners at a meeting with HE Pierre Mayaudon, His Excellency Pierre Mayaudon, Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation in Bangladesh, at the

envoy's office on 1 August 2017. "We look for investment not only in terms of money, but we also strongly believe that foreign direct investment can bring innovation, technology, and expertise," said Syed Nasim Manzur, Chairperson of BUILD. He also urged development partners to





▲ BUILD Chairman hands over a set of BUILD publications to the Ambassador and Head of EU Delegation in Bangladesh at the end of the meeting.

join hands with the business community in Bangladesh to attract FDI. Referring to the Gulshan terror attack, Manzur said it had not stopped two-way trade between the EU and Bangladesh. “Bangladesh is still open to EU investors and others as well,” he added. Also, he said major trade bodies like the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry have come under one umbrella to take initiatives like BUILD to resolve all the trade and investment-related issues they have been facing for years.

The EU envoy also assured businesses of more trade between Bangladesh and the EU as the country has been enjoying the duty benefit under its Everything but Arms scheme. As for EU investment in Bangladesh, the ambassador referred to the EU Business Council (EUBC) that was formed to facilitate trade between the two trading partners. EUBC is comprised of diplomats

and business leaders, while BUILD works with business leaders and bureaucrats, which is a great initiative and quite similar to EUBC, the Ambassador added. Also, he said that as a single country, Bangladesh has been enjoying duty-free, quota-free market access to the EU and that he looks forward to increasing the business volume between the EU and Bangladesh.

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**We look for investment not only in terms of money, but we also strongly believe that foreign direct investment can bring innovation, technology, and expertise.**

**Syed Nasim Manzur**  
Chairperson, BUILD

Asif Ibrahim, Adviser to the BUILD Trustee Board, said that BUILD has been able to convince the Government to go for a number of policy reforms for creating a better investment climate since its inception. The meeting discussed possible working areas between BUILD and EU Business Council Bangladesh. Hossain Khaled, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nurun Newaz Salim, Acting President, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Ali Sabet, Team Leader of INSPIRED, among others, joined the meeting.



▲ A meeting between BIDA and BUILD was held at the BIDA Conference Room on 22 November 2017 in the presence of Executive Chairman, BIDA, Kazi M. Aminul Islam, and Syed Nasim Manzur, Chairman, BUILD and President, MCCI.

## Joint Collaboration of BIDA and BUILD for Investment

Having underscored the gaps and laps in policy and high-quality research, BUILD Chairperson Syed Nasim Manzur shortly briefed about the reforms endeavour of BUILD and its journey in policy research and expressed interest in working with BIDA for all investors in bringing about a positive impact for the country realizing the ultimate goal of proactively influencing the development of the private sector development. He also mentioned that BUILD has been partnering with the Board of Investment for years based on the MOU signed in 2014.

Welcoming the delegation from BUILD, Kazi M. Aminul Islam, Executive Chairperson of BIDA, said, “We would do everything possible to make Bangladesh the most attractive place for businesses to grow and

invest. With specific time-bound plans, we are going to focus on three major areas, and they include investment agencies, service providers and ecosystem for development which will directly contribute to investment in the private

sector reducing bureaucratic tangles, and we are already working for establishing linkage for setting up new industries”.

He also emphasized the need for reforms in several areas to achieve double-digit growth, and he intends to take steps along with the business and stakeholders to work with them: helping to shape a new approach, setting the template works for all investors,

and calling out what is bad in order to promote what is just and good for the country to attract both local and foreign investors. “We are the

“  
**We would do everything possible to make Bangladesh the most attractive place for businesses to grow and invest. With specific time-bound plans, we are going to focus on three major areas, and they include investment agencies, service providers and ecosystem for development...**

**Kazi M. Aminul Islam**  
Executive Chairman, BIDA

global leader in RMG, so that we will exercise RMG strategies in other sectors”, he added. He also inquired for research similar to that of RMG to help some other potential sector to come up to the fore.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum urged BIDA to fill in investors' confidence gaps to increase the investment flow. Moreover, she requested the government to establish infrastructure while Bangladesh will have the expected investment. The critical part of SME development came up in

the discussion, and in this respect, an integrated and coordinated approach is required.

The meeting finally decided that both organisations will join hands to reduce policy gaps and figure out laps in existing policy that are already in place but not working correctly. The meeting was attended by Tauhidur Rahman Khan, Director (Joint Secretary) and Md. Ariful Hoque, Director, (Deputy Secretary) BIDA, who contributed to the meeting.





▲ Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated *Business Start-Up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide* (fourth edition) prepared and researched by BUILD) along with others at the opening session of the BIP Summit 2017.

**Most of the new business entrepreneurs do not know how to approach for permissions because of the absence of information on the procedures, steps, fees requirements and where to get and how to collect these permissions. Because of these complexities, businesses remain informal. To that end, *Business Start-Up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide* provides a critical source of information regarding licence, permit, approval, certificate, registration needed for doing business in Bangladesh.**

# BUILD'S MAJOR EVENTS IN 2017

## Investment and Policy Summit: PM Urges World Investors to be a Part of Bangladesh's Growth

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at the Bangladesh Investment and Policy (BIP) Summit 2017 on 24-25 January 2017, urged the world's big conglomerates to be a part of the country's economic growth and said today's Bangladesh is a different one from a half-a-decade ago.

The Summit was organised by the PMO, BOI and BUILD at the Radisson Blue Water Garden Hotel in association with IFC, FBCCI, DCCI, MCCI, CCCI, BEZA, PPP Authority and Dhaka University.

Highlighting the country's economic progress and steps taken by her government for industrial and business promotion, she said, "Today's Bangladesh is a totally changed Bangladesh. People of Bangladesh are now much more confident and committed to materializing any impossible task."

Congratulating the organizers of the Summit, she said that overcoming all odds, Bangladesh's economy has been progressing steadily for the last seven years with remarkable growth and

transformations, despite volatilities and instability in many external markets and very sluggish growth in the developed countries.



**South Asia is poised to be a large centre of growth in the near future, and then it would no longer remain "a poor men's club".**



**To identify private sector policy issues and systematically resolve them, we have the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) represented by all relevant public offices and representative of the business chambers and trade bodies.**

**Honourable Prime Minister  
Sheikh Hasina**

and regulations, and we have undertaken all types of initiatives to create an investment-friendly environment.

The Summit was aimed to highlight the latest policy developments in private sector growth in Bangladesh to showcase private sector investment opportunities in key sectors and demonstrate opportunities for potential value

"This is the most opportune moment to show your dynamic role and be a part of our historic growth and development," the Prime Minister said while inaugurating the 2-Day BIP Summit-2017". The Prime Minister said her government would not do business; instead, the government would create a business-friendly environment for businesspeople.

In view of this, she said massive reforms had been carried out in infrastructures and rules



addition in those sectors for sustained economic growth. Honourable Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Industries Minister and Vice Chairperson of BOI, Amir Hossain Amu, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Chief Minister of Indian State of Meghalaya Dr Mukul Sangma, among others, spoke.

Vice Chairperson of Reliance Industries Limited of India, Samir K Gupta, South Asia Region CEO of Axiata Limited Dr Hans Wijayasuriya, Chairperson of Adani Group Gautam Adani, Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the

World Bank Group Sujoy Bose and FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmed and BUILD Chairperson Asif Ibrahim delivered speech in the inaugural session of the Summit.

PM's Principal Secretary, Md Abul Kalam Azad, made opening remarks while BOI Executive Chairperson Dr S. A. Samad gave a vote of thanks. Chief Minister of Meghalaya and other foreign business entrepreneurs showered their praise on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and expressed keen interest to invest in Bangladesh.



Private-sector leaders, experts, donors and government officials attended the workshop organised jointly by USAID and BUILD.

## NTB Action Planning Workshop Identified Priority Areas for a National Action Plan

A 2-day Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor (IPEC) Bangladesh Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB) Action Planning Workshop was held at the Westin Hotel, 7-8 December 2017, to identify priority areas of NTBs prevailing in Bangladesh and some action plans to address those issues. John Macy, Private Enterprise Officer, USAID Bangladesh,

addressed the inaugural session, explaining the importance of addressing NTBs to increase Bangladesh trade with SAARC and Extra-SAARC countries and increase economic growth for the country. Stephen Wade, the Consultant, moderated the session while Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, elaborated how these NTBs are



hampering the growth of the business, referring to some statistics on how the reduction of trade transaction cost leads to cost savings.

In the first working session, Dr Selim Raihan, Professor of Economics, DU and ED, SANEM, presented a summary of recent findings from NTB research and potential solutions for priority NTB areas, including conformity assessment, Anti-Dumping and Countervailing duties, Charges, taxes and other para-tariffs, rules of origin and trade facilitation at land ports especially in respect of having traded with India.

Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO of, BUILD also delivered a presentation discussing opportunities to leverage Public-Private Dialogue Mechanisms to eliminate NTBs. She highlighted some ongoing BUILD initiatives through its different working groups and PSDPCC process, along with some examples of success showing structured Public-Private Dialogue Platforms can help address NTBs and reduce business and investment

constraints. In the NTB breakout sessions, participants were divided into four parts; these were on conformity assessment, rules of origin, Antidumping/CVD, and trade facilitation. The groups identified the roots of the problems, priority actions, risks, and challenges. The participants wanted to see a simplification of trade processes, implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, increased capacities of the private sector, and a smoother flow of information.

On the second day of the event, the participants discussed specific actions that could be taken to address the priority NTBs highlighted on the first day. The discussions focused on capacity building opportunities, advocacy efforts, and research that could help improve NTB action planning and decision making. The workshop witnessed 60 participants from public and private sectors who put forward their opinion towards a comprehensive NTB Action plan.

## Policy and Institutional Reforms Key to Export Diversification

Speakers at a roundtable echoed the necessity for policy and institutional reforms in Bangladesh to achieve its export-led growth. At a round table in the city, leading private sector representatives and policymakers emphasised streamlining tariff structure, expanding bonded warehouse facility, harmonizing standards, building investment facilitation, and institutional capacity for export diversification.

Referring to Bangladesh's recent success and Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) conducted by the Ministry of Commerce, Dr Sanjay Kathuria, Lead Economist, Trade and Competitiveness, Global Practice of World Bank Group, stressed the need for coordinated efforts to address the key policy and institutional changes.

Md. Nojibur Rahman, Senior Secretary, Internal Resources Division and Chairperson, National Board of Revenue, said NBR would greatly

welcome implementing the recommendations. We will try to take all directives of the study and ponder actions accordingly, he said.

Esperanza Lasagabaster, Practice Manager, Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice, WBG South Asia, said this DTIS is a comprehensive study that can guide policymakers to explore the export strengths of Bangladesh.

Syed Nasim Manzur, Chairperson of BUILD, said that bonded warehouse facility should be extended to sectors beyond RMG. He mentioned that the dispersion in taxation also affects the non-RMG sectors like leather footwear which holds USD 5 bn export potential.

By rationalizing policy and making the non-RMG competitive, we can discover untapped and potential market which will finally contribute to the export volume, he suggested. Referring to the non-traditional sector, Ahsan H Mansur, Executive



Chief Guest Md. Nojibur Rahman, Chairman of NBR, speaks at the roundtable in the presence of speakers.

Director of PRI, opted for a strategic selection of sectors.

Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to BUILD, moderated the discussion session and said that the back-to-back LC and bonded warehouse facilities helped RMG flourish. The event was attended by Dr M. Masrur Reaz, Program Manager of Bangladesh

Investment Climate Fund, T&C, World Bank Group, Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO of BUILD, Jalal Ahmed, Additional Secretary of Finance Division, Shubhashis Bose, DG (Ad. Sec) WTO Cell, Ali Ahmed, CEO of BFTI, Saiful Hasib, DG of BSTI and Shaikh Yusuf Harun, DG of PMO, among others, who also spoke.

## CSR Policy for Environment and Society is a Must

BUILD and UNDP organized a sensitization workshop on Harmonization of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Policies in Bangladesh on 13 November 2017 at the Lecture Room of DBI in a bid to suggest stakeholders an overarching and harmonized CSR strategy that reflects the unique requirements and goals of environmental sustainability and innovative business.

"CSR practices are being done in a bit haphazard way; there is a need for coordination and policy support. Policies are not integrated while NBR has announced a policy, ITO 1984 has got some mention on CSR, Bangladesh Bank has a separate policy. In India, there is a CSR policy referring to its Companies Act; in Bangladesh, we are in a

position of revising our Companies Act but no mention of CSR issues. While summing up the session, she also came up with some recommendations on how to do more businesses through CSR activities and private sector should not consider it as a trade barrier," said BUILD CEO. Shahamin S. Zaman, Chief Executive Officer, CSR Centre, was one of the keynote speakers who emphasise the private sector for taking responsibility for society. She said that with the help of the private sector, India and Pakistan have already prepared national CSR voluntary guidelines, and it has been being implemented, and they are now proceeding with a full-fledged CSR policy.



▲ BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum speaks at the CSR workshop.

“Our businesses perceive CSR as a cost or threat and define it as philanthropy while lacking quality data and resources to make the business case also pose challenges to the implementation of CSR in Bangladesh,” said Mohiuddin Babar, CEO of BizCare as the challenges of CSR implementation in the country.

Khurshid Alam, Assistant Country Director of UNDP Bangladesh, questioned whether we all have a common understanding- CSR is doing responsible business, not on top of that. We cannot achieve environmental sustainability unless our private sector is the equal partner.

Arif M. Faisal, Programme Specialist (Environmental Sustainability and Energy) at UNDP, said that there should be appropriate regulation, incentives, and sanction measures for

doing business in an environmentally responsible way.

Earlier, Hasibur Rahman, ED, HRDI and Munmun Ahmed, Sustainability and Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank, spoke as a panellist. The meeting was attended by, among others, Nasrin Ara Surat Amin, Additional Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning, M. Fazlul Karim, Joint Secretary, DCCI, Naoyuki Maekawa, Senior Advisor, JICA, Toufiqur Rahman, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. Shahnaz Begum, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bank, Md. Ali Azgar, Deputy Secretary, CCCI and Shihab Ul Alam, Research Analyst, JICA/PMO, a representative from BKMEA, MCCI, also contributed to the workshop.

## Policies for Reducing Water Pollution in Industries

BUILD and UNDP organized a sensitization workshop on How Private Sector can do Business without Polluting Water: A Case of RMG on 21 November 2017 in a bid to recommend some policy suggestions so that the private sector can

initiate entrepreneurship taking care of natural resources, especially water to ensure environmental balance and green growth. BUILD Advisor Asif Ibrahim welcomed all representatives and highlighted the need for





▲ BUILD Advisor Asif Ibrahim speaks at the workshop, among others.

creating awareness among business entrepreneurs for taking care of the precious natural resources and initiate the reuse of water so that pollution of ground level and surface water can be minimised. Dr M. Abu Eusuf, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, was one of the keynote speakers who put emphasis on the private sector for taking responsibility for the use of water while establishing industries, including certification and green industrial policy.

While putting an underline on the RMG Sector and country's water scenario, Md. Sarafat Hossain Khan, Director General of WARPO, said that Bangladesh is located downstream of GBM basins and faces immense challenges in the water sector due to population increase, upstream withdrawal, economic development, and climate change. BUILD CEO mentioned that despite challenges, some factories have already attained the benchmark, and 29 PaCT partnered factories have successfully reduced their average water consumption from 201 to 147 litres/kg of fabric manufactured and around 160 factories have delivered promising results in terms of resource efficiency practices. Sayef

Tanzeem Qayyum, Coordinator, Bangladesh Program, 2030 Water Resources Group, IFC, said that incentives should comply with best practices exercised internationally, which will not cause harm to other sectors.

In reply to the point of increase of compliance cost of 10-20% to transform from a traditional to green factories, Tanuja Bhattacharjee, Deputy Team Leader, (PSES II), GIZ informed that for long-term sustainability and to cope with the new changes, the transformed industries will be the main beneficiary and able to accrue business benefits.

The meeting was attended by Dilruba Akter, Assistant Director, Department of Environment, Md Monowar Hossain, Senior Deputy Secretary, Environment, BGMEA, Azizun Nahar, Deputy Chief, Ministry of Agriculture, Abul Kalam Azad, Chief Engineer, BWDB and Chowdhury Md. Hamid Al Mahbub, Director, BIDA, among others who contributed to the workshop.

# BUILD'S ADVOCACY IN 2017



▲ The meeting is in progress at the EPB Conference Room.

## Meeting with Export Promotion Bureau

The meeting with the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) was held on 28 March 2017 at EPB Board Room. Vice Chairperson (VC) of EPB, Mafruha Sultana, welcomed the delegates from BUILD. CEO, BUILD, congratulated Mafruha Sultana for being the first female Vice Chairperson of EPB and switched on the discussion by presenting the research paper on “Potentials of Investment in the High Priority Sector-A Case of Agro-Processing”. She shared the BUILD initiatives regarding the agro-processing sector and said that the national definition of the agro-processing sector and alignment among the national policies must be needed for the development of the agro-based industry. The VC of EPB, Mafruha Sultana, said that there is a huge gap between the exporters and the producers in terms of the agro

sector. The producers often do not get a fair price, and the length of the middleman is wide. Director, Commodities (C.C), EPB said that the definition of agro-processing would be a complex one and added that if the definition is made in general, then about 90% of the agricultural products would fall into the category of the agro-processing sector.

BUILD's CEO presented two brief papers on the topic highlighting the issues and requested validation of the points. Those topics were about, “Ease of Doing Business and Simplification of Export Documentation” and “Policy Simplification for Diversified Jute Products: A Case of Espadrille”. The VC, EPB, agreed that simplifying documents could play a vital role in facilitating



export growth and upgrading Bangladesh's position in the Ease of Doing Business rank. She also added that EPB has already started working on simplifying export documentation by increasing online connectivity and automation of the export process. Md. Abdur Rouf said that according to the FE circular of Bangladesh Bank, there are cash incentives of 20% for handmade products in which category many diversified jute products are also included. Also, there is a cash incentive of 10% for diversified jute products in

the same circular. So, there is an anomaly, and EPB is working on these issues. They are also aware of the problems of exporting espadrilles.

Director, EPB said that BUILD could conduct research on some issues that can help the private sector; one of them could be the fixation of prices of new products, mentioning that a university teacher innovated a number of products but could not commercialise those because of price fixation problems.



▲ The meeting is in progress in the conference room of the Ministry of Industries.

## Boiler Meeting at Mol to Discuss and Design Small Boilers

A meeting was held in the conference room of the Ministry of Industries on "Design and production of safer low-pressure boiler for rice mills (Chatal)" on 20 July 2017 under the presidency of Enamul Haque, Additional Secretary (BIRA), Mol.

A presentation was undertaken by S.M. Zahid Hassan, senior advisor, GIZ, on the newly designed boiler for the rice mill (Chatal). He mentioned that the GIZ invented boiler is safer and 40%-50% more energy-efficient than the traditional boilers. Participants expressed their concern about the issues related to boilers used

in rice mill like security, quality of boiler, adverse effect on the environment. Zawahirul Gani, Managing Director, Modern Erection Limited, mentioned that the inclusion of Pressure Gauge, water level indicator, safety Valve in GIZ invented boiler will ensure safety. To avoid environmental pollution from using a traditional boiler, all boilers can be brought under the Boiler Act. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, added that if the newly designed boiler's design is safe, environment-friendly and cost-effective, then it can be included in the Boiler Act. Md. Abdul Mannan, Chief Inspector of Boiler, the Bangladesh Boiler Board,



stated that a committee could be formed to review and re-examine the technical specification of the newly invented boiler by GIZ with the instruction of Additional secretary (BIRA), Mol.

Masud Iqbal Md Shamim, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests, was present at the meeting.



Over the meeting, the Environment Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Forest receives *Business Start-Up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide* from BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum.

## Groundwork Meeting with Ministry of Environment for 5<sup>th</sup> WC of BUILD

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum met Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Secretary for Ministry of Environment and Forests, GOB, to discuss the formation of a working group for sustainable growth and development in association with UNDP Bangladesh and BGMEA on 15 June 2017. The 5th Working Committee on Sustainable Business for Growth and Development is expected to be co-chaired by Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Secretary of MoEF and BGMEA President for responsible business and safer production. The meeting was equipped by AHM Rezaul Kabir, Secretary General of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed,

Secretary of MoEF, extolled the initiative of BUILD and UNDP and told that we need to have greater coordination and a practical approach to address its increasing environmental compliance needs, more importantly, respond to the environmental degradation, and we need to enforce the industries to save the environment first. If the private sectors' work continues without maintaining government regulation, establishing industries haphazardously, our pressure will be there to stop mushrooming industries in the farmlands. He expressed his willingness to work closely with the private sector.



▲ BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum speaks at the meeting in the presence of the BGMEA President and UNDP representatives.

## UNDP for Business Continuity Centre in RMG Companies

BUILD had a meeting with BGMEA to discuss a study conducted by BUILD in collaboration with UNDP titled 'How to do Business without Polluting Water: A Case of RMG'.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum disclosed this, referring to several primary sources of information while conducting the study, in the meeting that the per litre use of water in Bangladesh is much higher than the international benchmark. In order to be efficient, the water use should be reduced, increasing space for others to use the essential item.

It is shown in statistics that RMG and textile are about 80 per cent of users of the total use of water by the industries. The Washing Dyeing and Finishing (WDF) is the most significant agent using maximum water. BGMEA president Siddiquir Rahman informed that about 100 per cent of the RMG exporting units are using ETPs now because of the pressure of the buyers and keep the RMG business compliant. He also added that a significant number of industries

have already gone for water efficiency. Sudip Mukherjee, UNDP Country Director and Mr Nick Beresford, Deputy Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh, were present in the meeting. UNDP Assistant Country Director, Mr Khurshid Alam, referred to the need for establishing a Business Continuity Centre in BGMEA to make the members of BGMEA aware of the need for a business continuity plan while devising a project proposal which will help them address unexpected future disaster and minimise the loss.

He referred to the Philippine Federation of Chambers of Commerce who has established such a centre at their own initiative. Mr Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to BUILD earlier, introduced the meeting about BUILD and how the 5th Working Committee of BUILD on Sustainability and Green Growth is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and BGMEA. Some other BGMEA Directors and Mohiuddin, Vice President FBCCI and Director of BGMEA, were present.



▲ BUILD CEO speaks at the meeting among others at The Daily Star.

## Dialogue on TAX Policy Reforms

Speakers at a program on 27 December 2017 urged the government to revise the rate of value-added tax (VAT), saying it was among the highest in the world and it mostly hurts the poor section of the society. They said that the confidence level is shallow among the taxpayers, and it is weird that they feel comfortable paying tax in the tax fairs organized by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) but not willing to visit the tax circles.

They discussed the issues at the national validation on Bangladesh Tax Landscape Study at the Daily Star building in the city. ActionAid Bangladesh organized the program. The draft study report was shared in the program, which is part of a global study conducted in five countries, which will be published in March 2017. The other four countries are Zambia, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania. The draft study prepared on the basis of secondary data was presented by ActionAid Bangladesh's program, policy and campaigns director Asgar Ali Sabri. The study titled Tax Landscape: Understanding Justice-Injustice focused on VAT.

In his presentation, Sabri said VAT was regressive to the poor as it took away a more significant portion of the poor's income than that of the well-off segment. VAT burden is 12.1 per cent of the poor's income, which is only 5.9 per

cent for the rich. The incidence of indirect taxation on the poorest of the urban income groups is higher than that of the middle-income groups. The incidence rises as income increases for the people living in rural areas.

The draft study suggested broadening the tax base and simplifying tax structure, strengthening tax administration, and improving compliance, careful structuring of tax incentives, improving tax morale among present and future taxpayers and incentivisation of taxpaying process. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum said VAT is a burden for the poor and the existing policy affects the SMEs primarily. The tax payment system is complicated for them, and they are deprived of various benefits due to the existing turnover tax payment system for the SMEs, she added. She referred to the turnover taxpayers who are not counted as registered VAT payers, depriving them of getting tax credit facilities and direct import. The small entrepreneurs are not enjoying the benefits as enjoyed by registered VAT payers. Speakers said the government had failed to achieve revenue earning target in the past three years due to the high target. The revenue earning target should be rational, which is achievable. The refund process should be spontaneous, and the integration between Bangladesh Bank and NBR should be established.



## **BUILD Joins Best Practices Experiences Sharing with UNV and UNDP**

Some significant bodies have joined their hands with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to identify the development priorities and the best practices on sharing by businesses. The organisations are BUILD, Microsoft, Banglalink, BSRM Steel, Standard Chartered Bank, Walton, Chaldal, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bitopi Group and Green Delta Insurance. Senior representatives from these organisations at a roundtable held in

the UN Offices on 6 December 2017 expressed their strong commitment to participate in a joint work plan for development to be executed in 2017. "We will help private companies to be recognized as socially and environmentally responsible. Today we start building a shared vision for 2017 and beyond," said Sudipto Mukerjee, UNDP Bangladesh Country Director. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum made a presentation on Policy Advocacy on Development Advocacy Network.



 BUILD Chairman speaks at the meeting at FICCI.

## **Need for Simplification of Policies for Foreign Investors in Increasing Capital Underscored in the BUILD-FICCI Meeting**

A meeting between Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) and Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) underscored possible partnerships in policy research, especially for foreign investors and multinational companies.

BUILD Chairperson Syed Nasim Manzur shortly briefed about the reforms endeavour of BUILD and its areas of works and expressed interest in working for foreign investors in bringing about a positive change and mutually assist each other in realizing the ultimate goal of proactively

influencing the development of the private sector development. Underlining the need for HS Code enhancement, the FICCI President Rupali Chowdhury reiterated FICCI's commitment toward working in the common areas of interest and said that FICCI would like to collaborate and share the experience of its members doing business in Bangladesh with BUILD and all regulatory bodies to attract FDI flow in Bangladesh. It was argued in this meeting that BUILD will send a proposal for Research Collaboration between BUILD and FICCI for implementation in the year 2017.



Representatives from BGMEA, UNDP and BUILD, are seen at BGMEA after the meeting while the BUILD Chairman hands over a set of *Business Start-Up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide* to BGMEA President.

## BUILD's Move to Sustainable and Resilient Business

As well as four thematic Working Committees, BUILD has designed another working group in association with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and BGMEA. The working committee is expected to come into force soon. As other working committees have co-chairs from both public and private sectors, mostly by the secretaries of the concerned Ministries and the Chamber leaders, the fifth working committee named Sustainable Business for Growth and Development is designed with co-chairs, one from the MoEF and while another one is BGMEA.

BUILD, BGMEA and UNDP sat down at BGMEA on 11 April 2017 for designing the working group. BUILD CEO Ferduas Ara Begum opened the discussion on the 5th Working Committee and put light on the scope of BGMEA, UNDP and BUILD to work for sustainable business from growth and development. BUILD Chairperson Asif Ibrahim said that BUILD as a PPD platform working since 2011 for private sector development and thus unlocking investment potentials for creating a more business-friendly investment climate in Bangladesh, and we give our maximum efforts in improving the business environment enabling reforms/simplifications of

business policy/procedure. President, BGMEA, Md. Siddiqur Rahman elaborately explained how BGMEA addresses the issue of labour law, trade union, pollution control, and ultimate target for green and sustainable development. He said they are fully aware of the SDG targets and are willing to support the government in all respects. The President, in principle, agreed to be the Co-Chair and requested BUILD to step up with other processes for formalizing the working group. At the meeting, it was decided that BUILD and BGMEA will continue to work together and will extend support to each other to work on green growth, climate change and sustainable development and advance the 5th Working Committee of BUILD.

Khurshid Alam, Assistant Country Director of UNDP Bangladesh, said that the private sector needs to continue their business towards a resilient and sustainable green growth to support the government to achieve SDG Goals. Faruque Hassan, Senior Vice President, Miran Ali, Director and Nabila Jamal, Senior Deputy Secretary of BGMEA and Moshaddek Alam, Communication and Advocacy Associate of BUILD, were present at the meeting.





▲ BUILD CEO presented a copy of *Business Start-Up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide* to the Director of the Private Sector Development Group Tanaka Shinichi in the presence of the JICA delegation.

## JICA Keen to Private Sector Development

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is working with the Government of Bangladesh and keen to provide support to the Bangladesh Private Sector Development for keeping pace with the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of the country. An 8-Member Delegation of JICA visited BUILD and had a detailed meeting on 25 April 2017, for understanding how the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) is working in the country in collaboration with the government.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum gave an overview of BUILD and how it has been working for policy simplification for the private sector development since 2011 through PSDPCC and its respective working committees. She mentioned that the Government of Bangladesh launched PSDPCC on 12 September 2011, and a Policy Coordination Unit (PCU) has also been established in the PMO. BUILD has been providing all related services and reform recommendations that are considered by the PSDPCC for implementation.

The JICA delegation unfolded that JICA would assist Bangladesh in building up its private sector partners and improving Bangladesh's public

policies and systems. While focusing on trade and investment promotion, the Director of the Private Sector Development Group, Tanaka Shinichi, briefly discussed the JICA Corporation Program of Private Sector Development in Bangladesh. He said that this program is intended to ensure quality control and promote export growth of the industrial product. Another representative of the Private Sector Development Group, Jimbo Naomi, said that companies interested in foreign investment usually compare the investment conditions of each country to find the most favourable destination and it is necessary for developing countries to realize improvement of the investment environment.

The JICA delegation was equipped by Nouyuki Naoyuki Maekawa, Senior Advisor of JICA, Koichi Tanaka, Chief Researcher of GDMC, Ueda Takafumi, Senior Advisor of JICA, Seiko Yamabe, Representative of JICA, Ken Araki, Consultant of IC Net Limited. Jimbo Naomi, Asst. Director of JICA and Ahbabul Yousuf Khan, Research Analyst of JICA. The meeting ended with a fruitful discussion on collaboration and handing over *Business Start-Up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide* prepared by BUILD.

# BUILD'S PARTNERSHIP



▲ BUILD Team and BFTI Team are seen at the meeting in the BFTI Conference Room on 3 March 2017 on building a relationship between BFTI and BUILD for research and advocacy.

## BUILD and BFTI for Joint Research

BUILD Team joined a meeting with the Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) to discuss how BUILD and BFTI can join hands in areas of research, policy, and advocacy. The CEO of BFTI, Ali Ahmed, also briefed about upcoming and previous projects, training, and the organisation's overall activities. Ali Ahmed, CEO of BFTI, warmly welcomed the BUILD Team and explained BFTI's upcoming and previous projects, training, and organisation's overall activities.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum shortly introduced BUILD and how it has been working for policy simplification through its working committees. She also explained the organisation's overall activities and how BUILD is supporting the private sector to unlock their business potentials as the first-ever structured Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Platform. She also added some practical examples of reforms implemented by BUILD and

how it is benefiting the private sector. Amitava Chakraborty, Director of BFTI, underlined future plans of the organisation on how they will expand the training activities and capacity building of the government officers who are posted in the foreign missions and how the institute will meet the growing need of the country in regard to negotiating capacities in different regional, bilateral and multinational agreements.

While discussing collaboration between BUILD and BFTI, BFTI CEO said, "We are keen to working together in the areas of research, policy and advocacy provided that the BFTI Board agrees". BFTI Chief requested BUILD to explore suitable training programmes and scout potential trainees for their programmes, which would be helpful for the private sector development. Officials of BUILD and BFTI also explained their own areas of

activities, academic disciplines, and interest to share their research experience towards a common goal to contribute to the country's employment creation and GDP growth. Mohammad Farhad, Research Fellow; Md. Shoaib Akhtar, Research Associate and Shwarna, Junior

Research Associate from BFTI and Moshaddek Alam, Communication and Advocacy Associate; Silvia Zaman and Kanis Fatama, Research Associates from BUILD, joined the meeting.



▲ The meeting between Concern Universal and BUILD is in progress in discussing possible collaboration areas for sustainable business and resilience at the BUILD Board Room.

## Collaboration Between BUILD and Concern Universal

A three-member delegate from Cordaid and Concern Universal on April 12, 2017, visited BUILD. Cornelis De Wolf briefly presented Cordaid and its works in Bangladesh and discussed and explored the domain of possibilities to collaborate for the betterment of Bangladesh. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum shortly gave an introduction of BUILD and how it has been

working for policy simplification through its working committees and its role as a PPD Platform in Bangladesh. BUILD and Cordaid will join hands in initiating collaboration for policy simplification of agro sector development and impart some training involving Chambers/Association.

## Meeting with UNCDF and Melinda Gates Foundation for Strengthening Mobile Banking

BUILD hosted a meeting on 5 March 2017 with representatives from the UN Capital Development Fund and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for exchanging research, ideas, and opinions regarding mobile banking and other regulatory issues.

Feisal Hussain, Senior Regional Technical Advisor of UNCDF, shortly gave an overview of UNCDF and expressed interest in strengthening mobile banking for common people and how to minimize the gap between the formal economy and informal economy in Bangladesh. BUILD CEO





Representatives from UNCDF, Melinda Gates Foundation and BUILD participate in the meeting at the BUILD Secretariat.

Ferdaus Ara Begum welcomed the delegates to the meeting and gave an overview of BUILD and how it worked for policy simplification for the private sector development since 2011. Francesca Cioni, M&E Officer from UNCDF, Sacha

Polverini, Senior Programme Officer of Gates Foundation, Sungah Lee, Senior Programme Officer from Gates Foundation and Ziaul Hoque Mukta from UNCDF joined the meeting.



BUILD CEO speaks during the second day of the dialogue on NTMs.

## NTM Diagnosis-Collaboration of Regional Countries

On the second day of the 2-Day dialogue in Dhaka, the speakers on 4 April 2017 noted that South Asian nations, especially the member-states of SAARC, pursue divergent policies and

regulatory regimes best suited to competing with one another and unexpectedly contradictory to an integrated regional economy. "Due to divergent economic and trade policies among the member

states, there is this extensive 'Sensitive lists' since the formation of SAFTA in 2006," said MCCI secretary Shaquib Quoreshi in presenting his keynote on 'Diagnostic work on NTMs in the BBIN sub-region. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum stressed the need for more cooperation among public and private sectors to overcome the challenge, especially in formulating data banks,

as collecting data is quite cumbersome. FBCCI Director Shafquat Haider moderated the first session of Sunday, the second and concluding day of the public-private dialogue, organized by MCCI in association with the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Asia Foundation.

## **2030 Water Resources Group (WRG) Bangladesh Programme**

2030 WRG Bangladesh Programme arranged a seminar on "Water Governance and Sustainability Work-Stream Meeting Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership" on 21 March 2017 at IFC Dhaka Office. This seminar was chaired by Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources. Different delegates from different private and public sectors were also present in this meeting. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, suggested some policy suggestions to enrich the workstream to move further.

### **The Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth-Belt (BIG-B) Initiative**

A workshop on "The Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth-Belt (BIG-B) Initiative" was held in Dhaka on 9 April 2017 by JICA. On this occasion, Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Secretary, was present as

the Chief Guest and Suraiya Begum, Secretary of PMO, FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad and Mikio Hataeda, Chief Representative of JICA Bangladesh Office, were present as Special Guests. The Principal Secretary said the foreign investors find confidence and trust if usable lands are available for setting up industries. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum referred to different policies of the Government, which are friendly to the foreign investors, deemed exporters. FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmed said the BIG-B initiative is effective all over the country. He urged the Japanese investors to invest in waste management, IT, pharmaceuticals, and plastics sectors. Chief Representative of JICA Mikio Hataeda said Bangladesh is one of the most important investment destinations for investors.

## **BUILD Supports to ERD for GPED Monitoring Survey**

For the first time as a PPD platform, BUILD participated in the 2015 Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation Monitoring Survey. As a focal point, BUILD provided inputs on Indicator 3: Engagement and Contribution of the Private Sector to Development in different modules that required information from the private sector. The indicators were how much the private sector is ready and willing to engage and interact with the government.

BUILD also attended the 'Global Partnership Monitoring survey multi-stakeholders dialogue/data validation meeting' on 28th March 2017 at ERD and replied to the questions raised by the participants and the donor representatives in regard to the readiness of the private sector to work with the government. The strengths of each indicator in terms of valuation by BUILD for the survey has been agreed upon and validated in the meeting.

## **IFC and PaCT Joint Meeting for the Formation of TSP**

A meeting of the Stakeholder Working Group (WG) under the Bangladesh Partnership for Clean Textiles (PaCT) project was held at the IFC

Resident Office in Dhaka on Tuesday, 19 April 2017 at 3 pm. The meeting was attended by the core selected members from the three Working



Groups (WGs) of the PaCT Project as well as attendees from the private sector and government bodies. CEO, BUILD, as a Member of

the Core group, participated and raised several pertinent points.



Workshop on Linking Finance and Results to Implement the 7th FYP in the context of SDGs is in progress.

## ERD Outlines Future Development Financing Trends

Workshop on Linking Finance and Results to Implement the 7th FYP in the context of SDGs organized by the ERD of the Government of Bangladesh is in progress at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka. BUILD Chairperson Asif Ibrahim joined the workshop as a designated discussant and said that DFA will provide inputs into the draft National Policy on Development Cooperation of the government and will also help to provide a deep understanding of the potential

sources of resources needed for its future development initiatives.

Executive Chairperson of the Board of Investment Dr Syed Abdus Samad, UNDP Country Director in Bangladesh Pauline Tamesis, senior representatives from Finance Division, Bangladesh Bank, National Board of Revenue and other relevant government ministries and business chambers were present.

# MANAGEMENT OF BUILD



▲ Syed Nasim Manzur, Chairman, BUILD, presides over the meeting.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of BUILD Held

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Trustees of BUILD was held on 18 August 2017 at Apex Footwear Building, Gulshan 1 and chaired by Syed Nasim Manzur, Chairperson, BUILD. The members of the Trustee Board were received and greeted by the BUILD Chairperson. While welcoming all the Trustee Board members, the BUILD Chairperson informed that there are ten agenda for discussion. BUILD Chairperson then called the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Trustees to order. The Board Meeting appraised the activities of BUILD implemented since the meeting held on

opened with approving the Implementation Report and minutes of 9th Trustee Board meeting held on 21 June 2017 at the BUILD Board Room. The meeting broadly discussed the agenda, including new research partners interested, Sustainability Plan of BUILD.

A summary of the activities along with the research, dialogue, advocacy, FGDs, working committee meetings and PSDPCC meetings of the period of June 2017–August 2017 was presented for the information of the Board

Members. The board expressed their satisfaction with the activities and approved the report. The Board of Trustees constituted in the Deed of Trust in 2013 is responsible for the policy direction that the organisation 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 six members who are representatives of institutions from the successful leading and prime chambers in Bangladesh and a member secretary of the organisation to run routine activities.

The meeting was attended by Hussain Khaled, President, DCCI; Mahbubul Alam, President, CCCI and Trustee Board Member, BUILD, Asif Ibrahim, Adviser to BUILD Trustee Board, Ferdaus Ara Begum, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Trustee Board Member, A. H. M. Rezaul Kabir, ndc, Secretary General , DCCI and Trustee Board Member, BUILD, Farooq Ahmed , Secretary General , MCCI, Trustee Board Member, BUILD, Moshaddek Alam, Senior Communications and Advocacy Associate and Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, Senior Officer, MCCI.



মাস্তুরাল অধিবেশন (১)

# নৈতিক প্রসঙ্গ

৬ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৭

সেমিনার হল ১

বাংলাদেশ কৃষিবিদ ইনস্টিটিউট, ঢাকা



নাগরিক সম্মেলন ২০১৭

বাংলাদেশে

এসডিজি বাস্তবায়ন

কাউকে পেছনে রাখা যাবে না

Platform for SDG

বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক



প্যানেলিস্ট

প্যানেলিস্ট



# MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS OF BUILD IN 2017

## NATIONAL EVENTS

### **WB Meeting on Digital Entrepreneurship Ecosystem**

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum had a meeting with a World Bank Group Delegation of World Bank research on Digital Entrepreneurship Ecosystem for discussion with Brett Dicksein on Digital Entrepreneurship Programme, Toni Kristian Elias, Nicolas Friederici to think about a platform for public-private dialogue with respect to ICT and Innovation Policy.

BUILD CEO referring to some of the ICT related activities of BUILD, mentioned that there is a severe need for an Innovative Policy as ICT is one of the emerging sectors in the country. During the discussion, she referred to Entrepreneurship Equity Funding (EEF) allowed for the ICT sector, but there are several stringent formalities for managing the fund.

She also referred to the Intellectual Property (IP) cost as equity is agreed in the policy, but the amount should be increased; she informed, in principle, it has been approved to increase the IP cost from 5% to 10%, but it has not yet been implemented. During the discussion, she further informed that there is a need for the IP Valuation method to be discussed so that this IP value can be reflected in the balance sheet of SME IT entrepreneurs. She also agreed that a PPD platform is essential for ICT development.

### **Meeting at PMO on SME Policy**

A2i Programme of Bangladesh, in collaboration with the B-SEP Project of ILO and INSPIRED Project, organized a High-Level Policy Dialogue on "Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship Development in Bangladesh" on 15 May 2017 at Karabi Hall, Prime Minister's Office.

The experiences of the self-employment and entrepreneurship development initiative, 'Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB)', carried out by ILO in various countries, were shared in the dialogue. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum attended the Ministry of Industries program and emphasised the SME Strategy implementation body so that this strategy can be implemented shortly. As per the proposal for an SME Act, she endorsed the proposal and opined that this is one of the critical requirements and need to be prepared under the leadership of the Ministry of Industries.

### **Follow-up Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> PSDPCC at Mol**

A meeting with the Chairperson, Boiler Board and other officials of Boiler Office was held on 16 June 2017 at the Ministry of Industries (MOI) to discuss issues agreed as decisions on the study of BUILD placed in the 8<sup>th</sup> PSDPCC meeting held on 3 January 2017 under the chairpersonship of Principal Secretary.

BUILD CEO replied and explained all the policy-related decisions of the PSDPCC meeting which was placed on behalf of Boiler Manufacturers in Bangladesh. Based on the discussion, it was agreed that they would soon call a meeting with Boiler Manufacturers of Bangladesh to understand their policy-related problems.

Chairperson, Boiler Board underscored the need and understood the importance and potentials of this sector. He is keen to see for private sector representative in the Boiler Board; Boiler Chief Inspector suggested revising the Boiler Rule first for incorporating private sector representatives. Board Chairperson showed his interest and willingness to extend cooperation for the formation of the Boiler Association. The automation issue was also discussed. Regarding design approval need for the second time for manufacturing the same Boiler, the board Chairperson agreed on the proposal's merit.

Regarding the Lost Annex of the Act, Boiler Inspector is aware, but he is not confirmed that the Annex really belongs to be a part of the Act. BCSIR has been assigned to update the ACT, where BUILD requested to engage the private sector. Inclusion of XB has been agreed for encouraging domestic boiler manufacturers for producing Boilers for Rice Mills, Poultry Feed manufacturing units etc. BUILD's inclusion in the Sub-Committees of revising Acts, Rules; Ordinances were also emerged and discussed in the meeting.

## **Greater Dhaka Watershed Restoration Work Stream of Bangladesh at LGRD**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Greater Dhaka Watershed Restoration workstream of Bangladesh was held on June 9 at the LGRD; Secretary, LGRD, presided over the meeting. A gazette notification no. 42.00.0000.038.18.039/15 dated 6 December 2015 of the Ministry of Water Resources was issued under which the National Steering Board of Bangladesh Water MSP has endorsed three initial work-streams namely (1) Water Governance and Sustainability, (2) Greater Dhaka Watershed

Restoration and (3) Agricultural Water BUILD as a Member of the Steering Board and Work-Stream was present in the meeting to put forward its opinion on the TOR of the committee and a presentation made in the meeting.

In the course of discussion of arranging to fund and in reference to a probable source of GCF, BUILD CEO informed that Planning Ministry, as one of the GCF focal points, can be a member of the WorkStream, and she also raised the problem of acute waterlogging in Dhaka can be included in the TOR of the committee, if possible, along with some other essential issues presented in the meeting.

## **Meeting with WARPO**

As a member of the Task Force, BUILD CEO joined a meeting at WARPO on 19 June 2017 to put an opinion on Economic Incentives for Sustainable Water Management in Bangladesh. The Taskforce was formed as per a meeting on Water Governance and Sustainability Work-Stream of the Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholders Partnership. The task force aims to prepare a concept note for the pricing and incentives study for the water sector in Bangladesh. CEO BUILD informed that water use in Bangladesh is not regulated that much as after the permission of establishing a deep tube well, an entrepreneur remains totally out of the regulation, and thus water use is not possible to be included in the oversight of the concerned Ministry. The meeting agreed to revise the TOR as per the discussion of the meeting.

## **Budget Dialogue of CPD**

CPD organized a Budget Dialogue on June 19 at a hotel in Dhaka; the BUILD CEO attended the programme and contributed. She underscored the need for preparing a Graduation strategy for Bangladesh aligning with the relevant SDG goals. With food security issues, she also emphasized the need for food safety along with Food Security which is essential at this stage of the country now.

Honourable Planning Minister was present as the chief guest while Dr Syeduzzaman chaired the session. Other guests were State Minister Finance, Dr Abdur Razzak, Chairperson Parliamentary Committee of Ministry of Finance and former Commerce Minister. Dr Mustafizur Rahman presented the keynote paper.

## **Mistreated: The Tax Treaties That Are Depriving the World's Poorest Countries of Vital Revenue**

ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) organised national dissemination of a study report titled "Mistreated: The tax treaties that are depriving the world's poorest countries of vital revenue". The purpose of this national dissemination is to inform multi-stakeholders about the findings and capture their perspectives, generate debate around the potentials for raising Corporate Tax Revenue in realizing the SDGs. BUILD CEO spoke at the event as a Resource Speaker.

As per AAB's research, for a single clause, Bangladesh has to lose about 85 million US dollars or 700 crore taka, which has several implications on the Bangladesh economy. CEO said the study could also consider the indirect impact of FDI such as employment creation, technology transfer, export to other countries etc. Bangladesh Income Tax Ordinance 1984 at its chapter XVII, under its Double Taxation Relief Clause, it is clearly written that Government may enter into an agreement with the government of any other country for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion concerning taxes and income leviable under this ordinance and the corresponding law in force and notification prepares as gazette.

Bangladesh has about investment from 37 countries (EPZ), and in the non-EPZ investment is also there, not all the countries are investing in a similar manner, but it is true that not all of them has Double Taxation Agreement, say, Denmark, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Vietnam have Treaties but not so much investment (No investment in the EPZ).

There could be a detailed description of the study on information to show whether the countries with Tax Treaties are willing to invest to avoid taxes; while going through the Treaties, it is clear that all the relevant issues such as the Establishment of the Entities, Associated parties, Dividends, Interest, Profit Repatriation etc. are clearly mentioned in the treaties and ratified, in future while going for these type treaties, a details exercise is required as proposed by AAB, CEO opined.

In regard to the Transfer Pricing, she informed the regulation is effective in Bangladesh from July 2014 by the Finance Act 2014-regulation was initially introduced in 2012, section 107A-107(6) of the Income Tax Ordinance, Rule 75 to 75A of the Income Tax Rules, 1984, Associated Enterprise(107(A) is also there. However, so far, these policies are not in place because of the non-completion of implementation arrangement. A strong cell in the NBR needs to take care of these issues.



▲ Pictured are representatives from ABB and BUILD.

## **Meeting Between BUILD and ABB**

A meeting between Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) and the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh Limited was held at the Board Room of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The meeting underscored possible areas of partnership in the field of policy research for the banking and financial sectors. Banks can

be a potential research partner of BUILD to resolve their cases that needs reforms by using the BUILD platform. ABBD members raised some of the areas of reforms where they need support from BUILD. A proposal for an Endowment also come up in discussion.

BUILD Chairperson Syed Nasim Manzur, DCCI President Hossain Khaled, Asif Ibrahim, Adviser to BUILD, ABB Chairperson Anis A. Khan, Humayun Rashid, Senior Vice President of DCCI, K. Atique-E-Rabbani, FCA, Vice President of DCCI, Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, AHM Rezaul Kabir, Secretary General, DCCI and other members of ABB joined the meeting.



▲ BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum moderates the seminar in the presence of other speakers.

## Call for Policy on Chemical Use in Industries

Experts and stakeholders emphasized introducing a policy to control the use of chemicals in Bangladesh's manufacturing sector and keep the environment safe. They addressed a seminar on "Restriction and Controlled Use of Hazardous and Toxic Substances for Industries in Bangladesh," organised by the Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD). Different stakeholders, both from the public and private sectors, attended the function to create awareness about safer alternatives of hazardous

chemicals in industries. The concerns come as the toxic substances, used mainly in textile, footwear, and leather industries, are taking a toll on the environment and public health. Presenting the keynote paper, BUILD Research Associate Md Nuruzzaman said 9+2 chemical group includes 166+ substances that are affecting the global environment and ecosystem through non-soluble micro-pollutant abstracts. These hazardous substances, he said, are used in Bangladesh's textile and leather factories randomly, and the non-soluble discharge of these substances is causing some chronic diseases. "But the chemicals are banned or restricted in the European Union and North America since the 1970s. Some other countries are about to take measures to ban or limit the use of these hazardous substances," said Nuruzzaman.

Ferdaus Ara Begum offered a set of proposals, including increasing import duties on some hazardous chemicals as they have environment-friendly alternatives. She stressed the specification of some HS codes as some hazardous chemicals are now imported under a single HS code. Assistant Inspector at the Department of Explosives, Monira Yesmin, asked for necessary rules in regard to the use of toxic and corrosive chemicals, which can be eventually included in import policy. Addressing the seminar, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Secretary General AHM Rezaul Kabir said the findings related to harmful effects of chemicals are only the tip of the iceberg as the "real problem is much bigger."

"Of the substances found in food, heavy metals like chromium, arsenic and lead can cause cancer and other chronic diseases," he said. "To help the nation, we should enforce related laws, and the government should immediately form the Certificate Authority to restrict and control these human killing substances."

Joint Secretary of MOI Yasmin Sultana said the government is "very proactive" to help the private sector regarding environmental concerns and work for hand in hand with them. Stakeholders from leading trade bodies, GIZ, other donor



organisations and chemical and environment specialists, among others, also spoke.

## **BUILD and JICA Meeting**

A meeting with Tetsuya Saito, Senior Advisor (Industrial Policy), Ministry of Industries, GoB, was held at BUILD on May 30, 2017. Ahbabul Yousuf Khan, Research Analyst, was also present at the meeting to put forward their opinions on some Light Engineering sector development in the country, specially Motorcycle industries.

Saito mentioned that policies of the government should be framed in such a way so that small vendors can have a linkage with the medium scale entrepreneurs, and at the same time, Medium should have linkage with the large so that all the different scales of industries are benefited, and the full-fledged industrial sector can be developed. He said local vendors are primarily small and medium, they need

technology, and there is a severe need for integration of technical issues and management issues to resolve the inventory management, human development to contribute to the sector.

CEO BUILD added that a large number of assembling industries are already in operation in the country, and the demand for motorcycle has been increasing because of the per capita GDP increase of the country, so there should be a clear policy to graduate assembling industries to full-fledged manufacturing industries to meet the increasing demand of the country. Vendors are operated in a haphazard manner; they need to produce quality products and gradually to some more value-added products not only to concentrate only on some less value-added

products such as seat, helmet etc. The Government should announce a Light Engineering policy where motorcycle could be a part. For addressing the transportation problem in the country, a self-sustained motorcycle industry can emerge in the country.



▲ Humayun Rashid, Acting President of DCCI, and Heba Abdelhafez, Lead Specialist, Investment Climate, WBG, lead the meeting.

## **Meeting with World Bank Group ICD Team**

The Investment Climate Diagnostic (ICD) Team of the World Bank Group joined a meeting with BUILD at the Gulshan Center of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry to assess key investment climate barriers and evaluate investment policy. Welcoming all the delegates, Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, said that we are much into streamlining the discriminatory policies and removing complex regulation, but they still exist, which is why we now look forward to sustainable implementation of reforms.

Joining the meeting, Humayun Rashid, Acting President of DCCI, said that we actively seek foreign investment, particularly in the apparel industry, energy, power, and infrastructure projects, and we offer a range of investment incentives under its industrial policy and export-oriented growth strategy, with few formal distinctions between foreign and domestic private investors.

Heba Abdelhafez, Lead Specialist, Investment Climate, WBG, led the side and said that Bangladesh had made gradual progress in reducing some constraints on investment, but constraints still continue to hinder foreign investment. The meeting was attended by

representatives from DCCI, British Bangladesh Business Group, Spain-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry and others.



▲ BUILD Chairman Nasim Manzur (second from left) is seen speaking in a session of SAESIX as a panellist.

## Ninth South Asia Economic Summit Held in Dhaka

The ninth edition of the South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) was held in Dhaka on October 15-16 to identify and address challenges for attaining sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030. The summit discussed a set of cross-cutting issues in the areas of trade, business, investment, climate change and politics to raise the volume of intraregional trade in the high potential but untapped subcontinent. The theme of the summit was "Reimagining South Asia in 2030". Chairperson BUILD was present as one of the panellists in one of the sessions on Promoting Sustainable Industrialization: Opportunities for Job Creation and Income Generation. Asif Ibrahim, former Chairperson, BUILD, also took part in a parallel session on Financing Development in South Asia: Avenues and Institutional Arrangements. BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum also participated in a session on Addressing Climate Change Impacts in South Asia: Cross Border Initiatives.



▲ Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to BUILD, is seen as a panellist in a session.

## Citizen's Platform for SDGs Underscored the Need for Policy Advocacy for the Marginal People

BUILD, as a partner of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh working closely with CPD and attended its second meeting to share views with the Platform Partners. So far, 40 Partners are working to make the Platform effective. Among the Core Group, BUILD Chairperson and Adviser are also included and actively participating in different programs.

In the second meeting, the Platform discussed the already completed activities and planned for a number of activities to be accomplished by the partners to create awareness about SDGs, sensitize policy planners for effective implementation and advocate with the concerned bodies and the government so that SDGs goals are achievable and the main target of eradication of poverty, hunger and a decent life for all and sustainability of livelihood for the marginal people are ensured.

CEO BUILD attended the meeting and shared her views to express the integrity with the need for such a big platform and emphasized the structured advocacy and, in that respect, requested to allocate responsibilities of activities based on the nature of the priority of the partners. She emphasized the role of the private sector and, in that respect on the need for job creation to achieve the primary goal of SDGs. She

highlighted the role of BUILD as an honest broker of policy reformer for the benefits of the private sector.

Taking a cue from a discussion on the reforms already agreed and implemented, she informed about the competitive partnership which is required for the reform implementation, and in that respect, change of behaviour of all partners is essential.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow of CPD, moderated the session while Advocate Sultana Kamal chaired the session. Dr Mustafizur Rahman, ED, CPD and Dr Iftekharuzzaman, CEO of TIB, were present in the occasion. Representatives of Partners were present and interacted on the issue.

### Third Meeting of the Workstream on Water Governance and Sustainability

A 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the workstream on water governance and sustainability was held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the conference room of the Ministry of Water resource Bangladesh Secretariat at Dhaka. Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan, Senior Secretary of the ministry, was present to chair the meeting.

As a member of the committee, CEO of BUILD was present and put forward opinion on the draft rules and regulation of the Bangladesh Water Act 2013. She informed that in order to take care of the issue of scarcity of water in general and falling groundwater levels in particular by raising industrial and irrigation efficiency, there is a serious need for improving industrial water used efficiency and compliance to Waste Water Regulation by the industrial sector with special emphasize on tannery and textile sector.

In this respect, she emphasized the need for public-private collaboration and close cooperation of public sector and private sector entities to share helpful information and knowledge.



▲ Md Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, and Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, NSU, among others, are seen after the meeting.

### Public Lecture on Industrial Policy at NSU

North South University organised a public lecture on 27 February 2017 consisting of a high profile discussion panel of distinguished government policymakers, industrial leaders, and leaders from the private sector on the topic 'Promoting Growth: Challenges and Opportunities for Investment Promotion in light of the Industrial Policy of Bangladesh.'

Following a welcome address by Prof. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, the Director of Public Policy Governance (PPG), the discussion was inaugurated by M. A. Kashem, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of NSU, and Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, NSU.

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum was one of the panellists at the meeting. Having introduced PPD platform-BUILD, she eyed institutional and procedural challenges of investment diagnosed critical factors affecting Bangladesh's investment-friendly FDI policy. Over disclosing all gaps to be harmonized in the upcoming Industrial Policy, she proposed ways to synchronize industrial policy with other national policies to face the realities.

The discussion panel included Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, ndc, Secretary to the Ministry of Industries, Bangladesh; Md. Nojibur Rahman, Chairperson of the National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh (NBR); Supun Weerasinghe, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Robi Axiata Limited; Abrar A. Anwar, the Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, and Prof. M. Mahboob Rahman, the Dean of the School of Business and Economics at North South University.

The discussion panel was moderated by Prof. Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman, Advisor, Public Policy and Governance (PPG) Program at North South University and was held at the NSU permanent campus in Bashundhara.

In addition to discussing the nature of the upcoming industrial policies in Bangladesh, the discussion probed the institutional and procedural challenges that impinge investment mobilization in Bangladesh and how to arrive at practical solutions for them, including addressing the current national Five-Year Plan that projects a significant increase to the rate of investment by 2020.

The panel also examined the possibilities of addressing the nearly 1 trillion taka of idle money that rests in the banks of Bangladesh while exchanging dialogue between the academic researchers, national policymakers and private sector leaders on the critical factors that affect foreign investment in Bangladesh and how to harmonize any existing gaps between industrial policy and existing demands by industrialists, primarily related to environmental and social factors.

The discussion panel was open to all students at North South University to direct insight into the pressing issues of industrial policy in the country. The entire program was organised by the School of Business and Economics (SBE) and the Public Policy and Governance (PPG) Program at North South University.

## **Workshop on Geographical Indication and Patent, Designs and Trademarks**

A seminar on “Promoting Geographical Indications (GI) as a tool for Rural Economic Development and Create and Protect Trademarks as a Brand for Economic Development” was held on 9 February 2017 at NPO’s (National Productivity Organization) Auditorium. This meeting created awareness about GI, Trademark, and Brand system among the public. Md. Sanowar Hossain, Registrar, DPDT, chaired the seminar. Jamal Abdul Naser, Additional Secretary, Mol, was the chief guest.

Jamal Abdul Naser mentioned the importance of Research for Geographical Indication to catch the international market. Md. Sanowar Hossain, in his presentation, elaborated on the importance of GI in Bangladesh. He mentioned GI is a name or sign used on certain products which correspond to a specific geographical location or origin (town, region, or country). By branding GI product, we will get quality products. GI product should have a source, unique quality separable territory, community property, and consumer recognition. GI registration system depends on the geographical location and origin of the product. GIs can never become generic once registered.

For protecting Patent, Design and Trademarks, it is our own responsibility to know about these issues. Registrar of DPDT, while explaining brand, referred to Square Group and its Trademark registration as a marketing tool for brand items. Brand should have specific scripts and logos and words, colours, distinctiveness etc. Brand and Trademarks should not be generic, contrary or flag embedded, he added. The Registrar, DPDT, mentioned that DPDT will soon be transferred to its own office at Agargaon, Dhaka and will be automated and effective at a time to serve peoples. Different speakers in this meeting specifically mentioned that DPDT should arrange different kinds of Seminars on these issues for all types of people covering the grassroots level. Shamima Afroz, Research Associate, BUILD, attended the Seminar.





▲ The National Steering Board members stand together after the first NSB meeting at the Westin Hotel.

## HLWF Steering Committee Meeting Held

The first meeting of the National Steering Board (NSB) of the Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) was held on 30 January 2017 at the conference room of Hotel Westin, Dhaka. The meeting was chaired by Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Dr Zafar Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, started the meeting with his welcome remarks. Then the opening remarks were presented by the Chair, Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary. After the opening speech, several presentations were made by different presenters relevant to the agenda of the discussion.

After the presentations, the Co-chair from the private sector, Rokeya Afzal Rahman (Vice President, ICC) and Co-chair from the civil society, Mushtaque Chowdhury (Vice-Chair, BRAC), made brief remarks endorsing the Bangladesh Water MSP and emphasizing the need for immediate actions and programs to address the challenges.

As one of the members of Bangladesh Water MSP National Steering Board, BUILD Chairperson Asif Ibrahim was present. The meeting, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, sought BUILD's support

for facilitating the MSP. BUILD CEO Ferdaus a Begum was also present there as BUILD facilitates policymaking process which impacts the private sector and industries and facilitates coordination with relevant mechanisms at Prime Minister's Office. The NSB agreed to start a process to review laws, regulations and policies where an overlap, gap or undue complexity exist and circulate recommendations to NSB members for their comments and discussions.

Chairperson of Centre for Development Research Bangladesh (CDRB) Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley and BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum introduced *Business Start-up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide* at Boi Mela at Bangla Academy on 15 February 2017. BUILD CEO gave a brief rundown for the audience about what inspired to write the book and answer questions from audience members.

## BUILD to Partner with GIZ for PSES (II)

BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum joined a meeting with GIZ on 17 August 2017 at GIZ Office. The meeting put light on Safer Disposal of Hazardous substance, International common good Practice of chemical use and disposal system, legislation for hazardous substances and coordination for unified approach and Patchwork among the government agencies and enforcement or incentivization of safer chemical use etc.

Dr Jurgen Hannak, Team Leader, PSES, GIZ, mentioned some challenges in using chemicals and the disposal of chemicals. He mentioned some international steps such as Amsterdam Convention, DETOX, ZDHC. He put stress on Manufacturers' Restricted Substitution List (MRSL). The backward linking SME units of textile and Leather sector like washing plants. In this respect, the Department of Inspection for Factory Establishment (DIFE) can play an active role to address these issues. He expressed concerns over oxidation resulted from the use of the anonymous volume of Agrochemicals in Bangladesh.

BUILD CEO proposed some collaborative works with GIZ to address the issue under the new working committee on “Sustainable Business and Green Growth”. The meeting was ended with a decision that BUILD and GIZ will put their hands together to work for the second phase of PSES.



▲ DCCI President Hossain Khaled (first from left) and Secretary General and CEO of BUILD join the meeting along with the USAID team.

## Meeting on Non-Tariff Barriers

A meeting was held at DCCI on 25 February 2017 where Blerta Picari, AMEG Project Manager, Geoffery Wright, Customs and Trade Facilitation Expert of Chenomics and Dr Khairuzzaman Majumder Deputy Team Leader, BTFA, USAID were present. DCCI President Hossain Khaled mentioned that a number of NTBs hampered the growth of business and referred to recent VD/AD issues of jute goods.

While discussing the non-tariff barriers (NTB) on different businesses in Bangladesh, Hossain Khaled, President, DCCI, referred to the recent initiation of discussion on imposition of CVD/AD on Jute Goods exports of Bangladesh to India. He gave examples of NTBs hampering the growth of the business.

While narrating the role of BUILD in supporting private sector business development, BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum said that there are differences of opinions in addressing NTB and

Non-tariff Measures (NTM) issues. Non- tariff barriers is one of the most debated issues hampering the growth of the business.

In that respect, BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum referred to a study on NTM conducted by ITC, where BUILD supported launching the study in Bangladesh. She further opined that BUILD’s Research could reduce policy implementation gaps and thus increase business competitions.



▲ Groundwork meeting of Bangladesh Investment and Policy Summit between BUILD and Board of Investment is in progress.

## Bangladesh Investment and Policy Summit Preparation Meeting

In association with the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, BUILD and BOI organised a coordination meeting at DCCI Gulshan Centre on 10 January 2017 with all joint chambers for the Bangladesh Investment and Policy Summit 2017 taking place on 24-25 January 2017.

BOI Chairperson Dr S A Samad called upon all representatives from joint chambers to support the summit and showcase sectoral investment opportunities in Bangladesh.

BUILD Chairperson Asif Ibrahim highlighted the latest policy developments for private sector growth in Bangladesh and the role of BUILD in

promoting PSD. K. Atique-E- Rabbani, FCA, Vice President of DCCI, Navash Chandra Mandal, Additional Secretary, BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum, Tauhidur Rahman. Joint Secretary of Board of Investment and Mohammad Lutfullah, Operations Officer Trade and Competitiveness) of World Bank Group, among other representatives from joint chambers, were present at the meeting.



▲ BUILD and the University of Dhaka have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for policy research, cooperation, industry-academia collaboration, and access to resources. The MoU signing ceremony took place at the Vice Chancellor's Office, University of Dhaka, on 17 January 2017.

## **BUILD and University of Dhaka Agree to Cooperate in Research**

In presence of Prof. Dr A. A. M. S. Arefin Siddique, VC of the University of Dhaka, Dr Kamal Uddin, Treasurer of DU and BUILD Chairperson Asif Ibrahim, signed the MoU for and on behalf of the respective organisations. Among others, the MoU is intended to facilitate all exchanges and co-operative initiatives between the two institutions in the areas of strengthening collaboration through organizing joint seminars, research and exchange of ideas between business entrepreneurs and academia.

BUILD Chairperson Asif Ibrahim said, "This mutual understanding is a step forward that could be strengthened further to identify common regulatory barriers related to industrial sector

growth and strive to eliminate such barriers by finding out simplified and transparent business processes and practices". He also briefed the activities of BUILD thoroughly.

While sharing all activities and mechanism of BUILD, Prof. Dr A. A. M. S. Arefin Siddique said, "It is a one step ahead that enables us to work together to use better each other's resources, expertise and experience towards enabling a better business environment in Bangladesh. We appreciate the idea of a co-chairing model from both public and private sectors of BUILD, and we can incorporate this idea into our innovation lab. In future, we will work following the model of BUILD".

Humayun Rashid, Senior Vice President of DCCI, handed over a pair of publications of Commercial History of Bangladesh while K. Atique-E- Rabbani, FCA, Vice President of DCCI, said that respecting teachers is a significant investment for our country, so we should underscore this area as well.

Among others, Syed Rezanur Rahman, Registrar, Prof. Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, Dean, Md. Rashedur Rahman, Assistant Professor of Department of International Business, A.H.M. Rezaul Kabir, Secretary General of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, Moshaddek Alam, Communication and Advocacy Associate, Nasib-Ul Amin, Research Associate of BUILD were present at the meeting and spoke.



# INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



Asif Ibrahim, Advisor, BUILD, speaks at the Forum.

## Better Regulatory Forum in Accra

Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to BUILD, spoke at the Better Regulatory Forum in Accra on 22 September 2017 organised by BEEP Ghana, Ghana Revenue Authority and UK Aid. The forum highlighted the importance of good institutional and regulatory governance in improving the business climate and highlighting how the quality of relations between the state and the business sector could help decision-making and minimize unintended consequences.



Session attendees are seen with Asif Ibrahim, Advisor, BUILD.

## EBAC Session in Bangkok

The ESCAP Business Advisory Council (EBAC) held its eleventh session at UNCC, Bangkok, on 1 November 2017, preceded by the 2nd meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) and its task force meetings on 31st October 2017. Asif Ibrahim, Advisor to BUILD, who is the Chairperson of the ESBN Taskforce on Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction in UNCC, joined the meeting. ESBN taskforce on DRR has been promoting business efficiency and productivity while also striving for better business continuity in production, supply chain and other downstream processes.





▲ BUILD CEO (second from right) is seen among the other panellists.

## BUILD CEO Joined FTA Asia Sustainability Symposium

On 3-4 October, Foreign Trade Association (FTA) convened a symposium on promoting responsible business practices in Asian supply chains in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It brought together over nearly 80 key regional stakeholders from governments, the United Nations, trade unions and civil society to engage in a dialogue on the social and environmental sustainability in supply chains in the region. BUILD CEO joined the symposium as the panellist.

Through interactive discussions led by expert panels, participants shared good practices and defined solutions to complex supply chain issues to create long-term, transformational change across Asia. Topics included: promoting business integrity; migrant workers and forced labour; environmental issues, business and human rights, women's empowerment, and the impact of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR).

"We unpacked how responsible business practice can translate into concrete actions at the supply chain level in the region whilst promoting the

business and human rights agenda and meeting the UN SDGs," said Christian Ewert, FTA Director General.

This event was organised in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), John Keells Holdings, the Ministry for Development Strategies and International Trade, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. Going forward, these shared experiences will shape the work of FTA and mobilise multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaborations to address future challenges.

BUILD CEO proposed to initiate actions aligning with SDG 12 so that the private sector is educated in that respect. In this respect, she suggested collaboration with the UN organisation in regard to prepare a balanced corporate strategy.

## MORE ACTIVITIES OF BUILD



### 5th Anniversary of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD)

The 5th Anniversary of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) was celebrated on 17 October 2017 at its premises with a simple ceremony. The celebration began with the opening speech of the Chief Executive Officer of BUILD Ferdaus Ara Begum and announced some milestones on the latest stages of development.



### Rendezvous at Sajek Valley

The BUILD Team had a 3 Day Excursion from 17-19 March 2017 starting from Sajek Valley (1800 ft above from the ground), ending with touching all coasts, and up and down the paths along the top

of rugged cliffs in and around Khagrachhari. Ambitious eco-resorts around Khagrachhari are a clear sign of confidence in Bangladesh as a tourist destination. The team visited all important places in and around the city and found that Khagrachhari and Sajek can be a good feed for tourism hub in Bangladesh. An article was published in Bonik Barta written by the BUILD CEO after the visit.



### Pahela Baishakh Celebration

BUILD Team celebrated Pahela Baishakh (Bengali New Year 1423) on 14 April 2017, with a traditional Bangladeshi way at its secretariat with several traditional Baishakhi mouth-watering foods and snacks. On this occasion, BUILD Chairperson Asif Ibrahim equipped the celebration.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), which comprise of the statement of financial position as of 31 December 2017, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of cash flows for the year that ended on the date, and a summary of significant accounting policies as well as other explanatory information.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in accordance with the Bangladesh Accounting Standards (BAS)/Bangladesh Financial Reporting Standards (BFRS), other applicable laws and regulations, and for such internal control as management determines it is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan to perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures are selected depending on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of the misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors considered internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) as of 31 December 2017, and of its financial performance for the period ended in accordance with Bangladesh Accounting Standards (BAS)/Bangladesh Financial Reporting Standards (BFRS), and comply with other applicable rules and regulations.

We also report that:

- a) We have obtained all the information explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of our audit and made due verification thereof.
- b) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the accounts section of BUILD so far as it appeared from our examination of those books.
- c) The financial statements dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of accounts.

Dated Dhaka,  
3 September 2018



**Ata Khan & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants



## Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD)

### Statement of Financial Position as of 31 December 2017

Particulars	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		31.12.2017	31.12.2016
<b>Assets:</b>			
<b><u>Non-Current Assets:</u></b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	1,000,065	1,108,631
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>1,000,065</b>	<b>1,108,631</b>
<b><u>Current Assets:</u></b>			
Advance, Deposits and Prepayments	4	648	-
Cash and Cash Equivalent	5	71,917,917	1,571,146
Advance Tax	6	-	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>71,918,565</b>	<b>1,571,146</b>
<b><u>Current Liabilities:</u></b>			
Loan	7	708,000	750,000
Advance Contribution Received			500,000
Accounts Payable	8	2,145,427	1,397,387
<b>Total Current Liability</b>		<b>2,853,427</b>	<b>2,647,387</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>69,065,138</b>	<b>(1,076,242)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>70,065,203</b>	<b>32,389</b>
<b><u>Fund and Liabilities:</u></b>			
Endowment Fund	13	70,000,000	-
Retained Earning	9	65,203	32,389
<b>Total Fund and Liabilities</b>		<b>70,065,203</b>	<b>32,389</b>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements.



**Ferdaus Ara Begum**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Mahbubul Alam**  
Chairperson

*Signed in terms of our annexed report of even date*

Dated Dhaka,  
3 September 2018



**Ata Khan & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants

## Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD)

### Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended on 31 December 2017

Particulars	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		31.12.2017	31.12.2016
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Contribution received	10	10,848,981	7,465,825
Interest from STD	11	557	6,195
Other income	12	41,300	178,530
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>10,890,838</b>	<b>7,650,550</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Salaries & Allowances	14	6,868,397	5,714,153
Administrative Expenses	15	3,992,669	4,302,674
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>10,861,066</b>	<b>10,016,827</b>
<b>Excess of Expenditure over Income (Transferred to statement of Financial Position)</b>		<b>29,772</b>	<b>(2,366,277)</b>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements.



**Ferdaus Ara Begum**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Mahbubul Alam**  
Chairperson

*Signed in terms of our annexed report of even date*

Dated Dhaka,  
3 September 2018



**Ata Khan & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants

## Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD)

### Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended on 31 December 2017

Particulars	Amount in Taka 31.12.2017	Amount in Taka 31.12.2017
<b>A. Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Cash Received from contribution	10,848,981	7,465,825
Advance Contribution Received	(500,000)	500,000
Cash Receipt from STD & FDR interest	557	6,195
Other income	41,300	178,530
Cash paid for expenses & others	(9,925,469)	(10,840,554)
<b>Net cash used by operating activities</b>	<b>465,369</b>	<b>(2,690,004)</b>
<b>B. Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Addition of fixed Assets	(75,950)	(34,730)
Advance Deposits & Prepayments	(648)	
<b>Net cash used by investing activities</b>	<b>(76,598)</b>	<b>(34,730)</b>
<b>C. Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Loan Received	(42,000)	750,000
Endowment Fund Received	70,000,000	
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities:</b>	<b>69,958,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>
<b>Overall cash inflow/ outflow (A+B+C)</b>	<b>70,346,771</b>	<b>(1,974,734)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning</b>	<b>1,571,145</b>	<b>3,545,879</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at closing</b>	<b>71,917,917</b>	<b>1,571,145</b>



**Ferdaus Ara Begum**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Mahbubul Alam**  
Chairperson

*Signed in terms of our annexed report of even date*

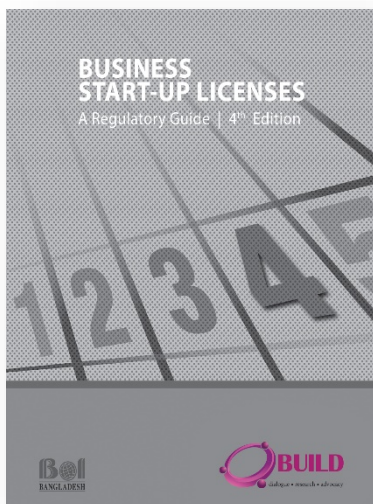
Dated Dhaka,  
3 September 2018



**Ata Khan & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants

# MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

**BUILD released a number of publications in 2017. BUILD brought out the fourth edition of *Business Start-Up Licenses: A Regulatory Guide*, as well as six newsletters throughout the year. Please visit our website to see all publications.**



## NEWSLETTERS





# PARTNERS

## SPONSORS



## PARTNERS



# BUILD SECRETARIAT

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## Sustainability and Green Growth

### **Md. Tahmid Zami**

Senior Research Associate

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## Secretariat

### **Ferdous Ara Begum**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

### **Moshaddek Alam**

Senior Communication and Advocacy Associate

### **Pallab Biswas**

Admin Associate

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## Taxation

### **Nasib Ul Amin**

Research Associate

### **Md. Nooruzzaman**

Research Associate

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## Trade and Investment

### **Kanis Fatama**

Research Associate

### **Mohammad Nazimuddin**

Research Associate

---

## SME Development

### **Jannatul Ferdous Shetu**

Research Associate

### **Chaity Ghosh**

Intern

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## Financial Sector Development

### **Shahriar Rawshon**

Research Associate

### **Md. Kamran Hasnain**

Research Associate









## Acknowledgments

The Annual Report 2017, which covers the period from 1 January to 30 December 2017, has been prepared by the Communications Department of BUILD. This report incorporates a focused snapshot of the organisation's overall performance over the year 2017. Its purpose is to help our partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries evaluate our progress and pinpoint programs and initiatives that require improvement or attention.

Communications Department of BUILD would like to thank all the departments and offices for their significant contributions to this report.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data used in this publication. Variations in data in other publications often result from different publication dates, although differences may also come from the source and interpretation of data. BUILD accepts no responsibility from any consequence of their use.

In this publication, "taka" refers to Bangladeshi taka, unless otherwise stated. Throughout this report, the name "Business Initiative Leading Development" refers to "BUILD" and vice versa.

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