**Press Release**

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Attn: News Editor/ Chief Reporter/ Assignment Editor /Business Page-in-Charge:

**2nd 4IR and ICT Working Committee Meeting of BUILD Held**

4IR & ICT is a reality now, Bangladesh needs to prepare for this, the strategy prepared by the government in this respect may be strengthened further by the inputs from the private sector. BUILD prepared a concept note to identify some gaps in comparison with similarly placed countries and identified some areas on which Bangladesh needs to put emphasis. A presentation was made in this respect to gather some more ideas in the 2nd meeting of 4IR and ICT working committee of BUILD. Concerned government and private sector representatives were present. The meeting was co-chaired by **Mr. Bikarna Kumar Ghosh**, Managing Director, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (HTPA), and **Mr. Syed Almas Kabir**, President, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS). Mr. A K Khan, Chairperson, BUILD, Dr Mohammad Alamgir, Member, UGC, among others were present.

Mr. Bikarna Kumar Ghosh, Managing Director, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority thanked BUILD for organizing 2nd meeting of 4IR&ICT Working Committee as well as for presenting informative key note presentation. He focused on the harmonized collaboration between the relevant stakeholders of public and private sector to ensure sustainable growth of 4IR&ICT industry in Bangladesh. He assured that while the government has taken a number of initiatives and implemented policy measures in that respect, the door is always open for private sector to come up with innovation and justified recommendations. All the inputs, recommendations and expert opinion gathered from this session will be well taken and would be addressed in the further report by BUILD, he added ..

Mr. Syed Almas Kabir, President, BASIS shared his observation on data privacy guidelines,stressing on the urgencyof its implementation. Proper data privacy is required to enhance Big Data expansion. IOT issue needs to be addressed as a priority agenda under the Digital Security Policy. Expansion of 5G internet is a critical need for eventually developing the IoT and 4IR technologies. Up-skilling and re-skilling of workers is essential to ensure that there is minimum disruption in the labour market as automation through industrial robotics technology is coming fast. It is high time to collaborate with international robotics industry to domestic industry.

He further informed that COVID has accelerated the pace of technology adoption. We need to be prepared to go with 4IR&ICT. BHTPA and BASIS will always be with BUILD in its further journey.

Mr. Muhammed Alamgir, Member, University Grant Commission (UGC) pointed out that Bangladesh ranked 135th among 137 country in recently in the internet connectivity in the world There should be clear understanding about the existing situation and intended goals of development in 4IR and ICT. Industry needs to be more proactive in providing customized human resource development for the graduates from the academia, while the academia should have a closer alignment with the demands of the industry by providing more outcome-based education for skilled and employable workforce. Incentives to Industrial Research is limited that should be extended at larger scale. 4IR strategy and other relevant issues should get priority in academic syllabus preparation to achieve SDGs by 2030.

Mr. Abdul WahedTomal, General Secretary, e-CAB, informed that the stakeholders of digital commerce industry are facing a series of constraints and challenges. Policy interventions should be carefully designed so that interests of various industries can be protected, contributing to a synergistic development pathway.

Intensive training on electrical and electronic sector to boost 4IR and robotics industryis needed, observed Dr. Shamim Ahmed Deowan, Assistant Professor and Chairman, Department Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering, University of Dhaka.

Mr. Ziaul Huq, DG, BIDA encouraged participation of more public sector ministries and agencies in the working committee’s dialogue and knowledge sharing process.

Mr. Humayun Kabir, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment focused on creating skilled manpower and logistics and infrastructure sector for 4IR&ICT development in country. Sustained private sector investment is required in this area.

Mr. MohammadMonower Hossain, Joint Secretary, BGMEA informed that the RMG sector is utilizing upgraded technology in product development, product design, product sampling, and so on. The technology and software are mostly imported from abroad. We need to focus on domestic investment including venture capital investment for homegrowntechnology and software solutions. Sustainability in manufacturing industries will be linked to blockchain and therefore the skill gap needs to be addressed.

Dr. Mohammad Dulal Hossain, Chief Engineering, BAEC suggested that a very focused and specific gap analysis should be conducted and in that respect they are ready to extend support

Ms. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD in her opening remarks shared the activitiesconducted by the committee that include initiating an assessment of where the country stands and where it aims to reach in the arena of 4IR and ICT. BUILD is working to engage relevant stakeholders from public and private sectors to this committee, she added. She urged for policy related constraints for which BUILD can advocate.

Mr Tahmid Zami, Additional Research Director presented the keynote in the meeting. Representtives from Ministry of Youth and Sports, DOICT, DU, BAEC, BCSIR, Labour Ministry, BIDA, BD4IR, BACCO, e-CAB, were also present and interacted.

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