



Business Finance for the Poor in Bangladesh

P2 CONFERENCE SUPPLEMENT



SHAHRIAR ALAM

State Minister, Foreign Affairs Gov. of Bangladesh

"The small enterprises are the backbone of the economy, so we intend to give them the importance they deserve."



MD. ASHADUL ISLAM

Senior Secretary, FID, Ministry of Finance

"The current financial inclusion strategy of the nation is at its last stage, this year and our plan for the next 2 decades is already set in motion."



FEISAL HUSSAIN

Team leader, Business Finance for the Poor in Bangladesh

"BFP-B shows that for a professionally managed public fund, it takes Tk. 191 of public investment or less than the cost of a cup of a coffee in one of the smart cafes in Dhaka, to incentivise and trigger formal financial system to extend services to a small business. Is that too much of a price to pay for a fairer financial system?"



DR. HASAN IMAM

Chairman, Bangladesh SME Corporation Limited (BSCL)

"To increase access to finance for the bottom of the pyramid, only digitisation is not enough. Physical presence at customer's doorsteps is crucial. But that's expensive, so we have to figure out commercially viable business models for banks that can provide a good blend of physical and digital experience to customers."



EAMON CASSIDY

Managing Director Nathan Associates, London

"There are complex structural problems that need to be closely looked at. Building a strong resilient private sector is important for growth and income for long term plans."



KAMAL S. QUADIR

CEO, bKash Limited

"The biggest hope for me is that the customers of this country are evolving very fast. The adoption of technology is happening in a very good way."



MR. MD ARFAN ALI

President & Managing Director, Bank Asia Ltd.

"Today's world is a world of collaboration and partnership. We need a 'marriage' between technology and business models to provide the financing that is required for the businesses at the grass-root level."



MANFRED FERNHOLZ

First Secretary and Head of the Food & Nutrition Security and Sustainable Development Section, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh

"The public and private sector must work towards achieving comprehensive and impactful reforms. We have to help frame and implement policies that will make investment less riskier for local and foreign investors."



FARZANAH CHOWDHURY

Managing Director & CEO, Green Delta Insurance Company Limited

"Our country is highly dependent on its human capital. We need to engage our women as much as their male counterparts. This is easily possible with technology, exchange of information, products and services that are affordable, simple and accessible."



DONGDONG ZHANG

Principal Financial Sector Specialist, ADB

"The gaps that subsist in the economy due to lack of documentation, collateral, trust and information asymmetry can be ceaselessly improved upon through the aid of accurately strategized digital transformation."



AFSANA ISLAM

Deputy Team Leader, Growth & Private Sector Development, DFID

"Leave no one behind and give access to savings, credits, payments, insurance services to all Bangladeshis at low cost and with appropriate risk protection- the journey of financial inclusion will only end then."



ANIR CHOWDHURY

Policy Advisor, A2i

"Integration of tangible and intangible information that an individual has on different platforms must be accessible under one umbrella. That will be key to digital transformation. We need policy interventions to make that happen."



ARIF KHAN

CEO & Managing Director IDLC Finance Limited

"Bangladesh's private equity segment will grow and attract foreign investors if consistent long term policies are in place. Additionally the exit process from an investment needs to be more business friendly. A structured process in line with global markets will increase investor confidence"



MR. MOMINUL ISLAM

Managing Director & CEO, IPDC Finance Limited

"Harnessing digital transformation is going to be very important in Bangladesh in the coming years as we move more towards the highly ambitious yet very achievable goals of this country. Plausible technological advancements and adaptations coupled with appropriate business models will sustain and harness growth and reduce errors."



Business Finance for the Poor in Bangladesh

Executing Agency



Implemented by



Managed by



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