

Business Summit

BANGLADESH, INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Towards a Paradigm of Partnership

CII welcomes the meeting of the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, and business delegations from these countries in Dhaka on 15th January, 1998



SHEIKH HASINA
Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh



Mr. INDER KUMAR GUJRAL
Honourable Prime Minister of India



Mr. MOHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF
Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan

CII SUGGESTIONS FOR GREATER COOPERATION

The three countries should, in the present international economic environment, consider the possibility of forming a Bangladesh-India-Pakistan GROWTH AXIS

INFRASTRUCTURE :

- Establish a network of road-rail transportation across the sub-continent.
- Consider a 'one sky' policy in the air transport sector.
- Treat the entire region as a single territory for the purpose of communication; have more entry points, additional train routes, and motor vehicles agreements.
- Integrate all three countries in a network of power grids built across the sub-continent.
- Increase trilateral co-operation for greater commercial production and utilisation of natural gas.
- Create a core fund for undertaking necessary activities aimed at propagating the use of renewable energy.

JOINT VENTURES :

- Successful JV's possible in the areas of Steel, Cement, Textiles, Petro-Chemicals and Engineering Industries.
- Form collaborative ventures in products that are major export items of the three countries - ready made garments, fabrics, leather, tea, gems and jewellery, etc.

CROSS BORDER INVESTMENT :

- Develop an exclusive policy package for encouraging cross border investment, especially for those sectors where there are large potential domestic and foreign markets.
- Encourage joint tendering for governmental and multilaterally funded projects.
- Harmonise technical standards, business laws and practices, quality standards, etc.
- Co-operate for development of supporting institutions such as industrial training, product testing, etc.

TRADE PROMOTION :

- Develop a sub-continental Free Trade Area.
- Constitute an Independent Study Team to undertake a cost benefit analysis of free trade among the three countries.
- Allow long term multiple-entry visa for businessmen of the three countries.
- Allow merchant vessels to call at each other's ports.
- Adopt a common strategy to overcome non-tariff barriers.



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