

Welcome to Danish Business Delegation

Led by: Mr. Christian Koenigsfeldt, Head of Department, Business & Contracts
Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

I am very glad to welcome the Danish Business Delegation consisting of companies from various businesses intending to explore the opportunities for investment and outsourcing production.



The pioneering effort of the Royal Danish Embassy to provide support to private sector enterprises directly through the Danida Private Sector Development Programme for transfer of technology and providing access to sophisticated western markets, has proven that the future trends in development assistance will include sustainable forms of assistance through Trade and Foreign Direct Investment.

I am confident that the private sector in Bangladesh is vibrant and dynamic enough to convince the visiting Danish companies to make long-term commercial commitments, which will go a long way in contributing to economic growth and alleviation of poverty in Bangladesh.

I wish the visit a grand success.

Bangladesh is today considered to have a favorable policy for foreign investors in spite of the infrastructure and operational problems that are common in a developing country.



With more than 130 million inhabitants Bangladesh is the eighth most populous country in the world and potentially a sizeable market with a growing middle class demanding more products and services.

Bangladesh offers a good potential as a base for establishing labour intensive manufacturing facilities due to the abundance of trainable and relatively inexpensive labour. This potential is already successfully being utilized by the textile and apparel manufacturing industry, which has been well established during the last decade. This development has been a major contributor to the GDP growth rate of approx. 5% per annum during the same period.

The need for upgrading the infrastructure of Bangladesh supported by programmes undertaken by World Bank, multilateral and bilateral donors, offers attractive opportunities in the energy & power generation, telecommunications and transport sectors.

I am confident that the visit by the Danish Business Delegation will lead to more successful cooperation arrangements within the private sector and contribute to the economic and social development of Bangladesh in cooperation with Denmark.

Looking at Bangladesh from Denmark, the entrepreneurs perceive it as a tiny and poor country of no particular strategic importance and with little opportunities for investment and commerce.



I for one would not blame them for this frame of mind. For one thing, they are not the only ones. One very often comes across similar attitudes in many countries in Europe and beyond. For another, the negative images of Bangladesh projected by the western print and electronic media, who themselves are not terribly knowledgeable about this country, don't help. They don't dispel incorrect and uninformed impressions about Bangladesh. If anything, they only deepen and reinforce them.

I am absolutely sure that the members of the Danish Business Delegation will discover, to their utter surprise, that we have come a long way from the early days of our independence when we were given the epithet of an 'International basket case'. We now can stand tall and say that we have many good stories to tell about our progress towards a democratic polity, about our self-sufficiency in agriculture and, above all about our impressive achievements in the social sector, particularly education and health.

My sincerest appreciation and thanks to H.E. Mr. N. S. Munk, the Danish Ambassador for organizing the visit of the Business Delegation to Bangladesh. Exchange of visits is the only way distance can be bridged, friendships can blossom and investments and trade among countries can flourish.

I am happy to learn that a Danish Business Delegation will be visiting Bangladesh during the last week of November 2002.



Bangladesh and Denmark have been enjoying a very friendly relationship. As a proven friend Denmark's cooperation in our development process is very praiseworthy. Denmark is also engaged in a private sector development programme that aims to attract Danish technology and investment to Bangladesh's private sector. The continuing development cooperation is a testimony to the strong and friendly ties that exists between our two countries. These relations would be further strengthened by the visit of the Business Delegation of each country.

I hope that the visiting delegation would be able to identify prospective fields to promote investment and business relation between our two countries. The representatives of the delegation from various Danish companies could set-up business deals with Bangladeshi business people which would benefit greatly the economy of both the countries.

It is my firm belief that the contribution of Denmark to Bangladesh's economic and social development will expand in a bigger way in the coming days.

On behalf of the FBCCI, I take this opportunity to offer my heartiest felicitations to the delegation from Denmark and wish them a successful visit to Bangladesh.

Yussuf Abdullah Harun
President, The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry

BANGLADESH - DENMARK BUSINESS & INVESTMENT SEMINAR

at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on 26th November 2002

Participants in the Danish Business Delegation

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Mr. Sten R. Nielsen, Export Manager
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Bangladesh - Denmark Business Forum

Abdul Monem Group
Aboni Textiles Ltd.
Aftab IT Ltd.
Al-Kashif Group
Alim Industries (Pvt.) Ltd.

Arla Foods (BD) Ltd.
B.H. Dyeing & Printing (Pvt.) Ltd.
Birds A&Z Ltd.
DK Group
DFDS Transport Bangladesh Ltd.

Eastern Housing Ltd.
FABC International Ltd.
Group 4 Falck (BD) Ltd.
Maersk Bangladesh Ltd.
Metrocomia South Asia.

Mutual Trading Company Ltd.
Naboti Industries (Pvt.) Ltd.
Natasa Corporation Ltd.
Otto Connection Ltd.
Pathmark Associates Ltd.

Santek Agencies & Services
Tex-Knit Garments Ltd.
The Ganges Ltd.
TradeFare Group
Trade Linkers Corporation Ltd.
Williams Ltd.

