



# 10TH YEAR OF ICC'S PRESENCE IN BANGLADESH

5 Dhaka Saturday January 17, 2004 Bangladesh International Chamber of Commerce - Bangladesh

## Global Economic Governance and Challenges of Multilateralism

### Programme at a glance

Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka

Saturday January 17, 2004

1500-1700 Inaugural Ceremony  
Speeches Keynote Address on Global Economic Governance & Challenges of Multilateralism (Grand Ball Room)

1700-1800 Break for Contact amongst Participants Refreshment

1900-2200 Cultural Programme  
Welcome Dinner (Grand Ball Room)

Sunday January 18, 2004

0930-1200 Business Session: ONE  
Multilateral Trade Regime in Post-Cancun Perspective (Ball Room I&II)

1200-1300 Contact Break

1300-1400 Business lunch

1430-1630 Business Session: TWO  
Capacity Building for Investment promotion in Developing Countries (Ball Room - I)

Business Session: THREE  
Trade Facilitation Through Dispute Resolution (Ball Room - III)

1630-1700 Refreshment

1700-1800 Press Briefing

**I**N the backdrop of September 11, war in Afghanistan and Iraq, security concern of the United States and others, is seemingly overtaking global economic agenda. While increasing threat to the multilateral trade regime should have been addressed with right earnest on a priority basis, it appears confrontational stance is surfacing more than ever before; among the leaders that virtually governs

world economic order. It is, therefore, imperative that world leaders give their immediate attention to the development agenda - a top most priority for an integrated global market place that has been visualised for the shared prosperity for all people in every part of the world. It is no doubt a daunting challenge but there is no choice either. Unless, leaders go deep into the problems, crises will continue to be

aggravated threatening the very concept of multilateralism. In celebration of the 10th year of ICC's presence in Bangladesh it's National Committee has, therefore, chosen this theme: Global Economic Governance and Challenges of Multilateralism; for deliberations by public and business leaders as well as eminent experts on free market economy. There will be an Opening

Plenary on the Governance and Multilateralism on Saturday, 17th January, 2004 and three Business Sessions on Sunday, January 18, on the following topics:  
**Multilateral Trade Regime in Post-Cancun Perspective**  
- Whether Cancun Declaration could effectively address the growing concerns of the developing countries and increasing differences among industrialised nations?

**Capacity Building for Investment Promotion in Developing Countries**  
- A pre-condition for meaningful global market integration  
**Trade Facilitation through Dispute Resolution**  
- WTO dispute settlement mechanism - make it easier for everyone & restrict misuse!  
- Arbitration and ADR best method to resolve commercial dispute

### Business sessions

#### MODULES

##### Multilateral Trade Regime in Post-Cancun Perspective

Improving the international architecture for an inclusive process of globalisation that benefits equitably the countries of the world, particularly the poor economies, remains yet a daunting challenge. Whether Cancun Declaration could effectively address the growing concerns of the developing countries and increasing differences among industrialised nations?

In this context, this session will discuss the achievement by the developing countries regarding the market access, phasing out of export subsidies and the reduction of trade distorting domestic supports.

It will also discuss on consensus-based trade negotiations, agreements and issues of special and differential provisions.

##### Capacity Building for Investment Promotion in Developing Countries

Despite broad-based policy liberalisation, flows of investment to the developing countries, especially LDCs are insignificant and therefore, developed nations are required to bolster technical infrastructure and capacity building assistance to these economies.

In this session focus will be made to identify supportive measures for infrastructure building, institutional and human resources development, expansion of production-base, developing investment information network and trade facilitation services.

##### Trade Facilitation Through Dispute Resolution

Dispute settlement mechanism in WTO appears to be long drawn and complicated, apparently out of reach to the poor trading nations; facing market disruptions. At the same time, a few countries with a view to continue their protectionist policy tend to drag the free trade into dispute thus obstructing market access.

In this session there will be interactive discussions on WTO dispute settlement procedure; to make it easier for everyone. It will also discuss commercial dispute resolution services provided by ICC arbitration and ADR.

Besides, there will be discussions on Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) and increasing interface with new Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

### SOME KEY PERSONS



Khaleda Zia  
Prime Minister  
Bangladesh



Amir Khoeru Mahmud Chowdhury  
Minister of Commerce  
Bangladesh



M. Morshed Khan  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Bangladesh



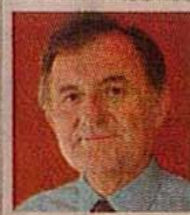
Dr Supachal Panitchpakdi  
Director General  
World Trade Organization



Dr Thaksin Shinawatra  
Prime Minister  
Thailand



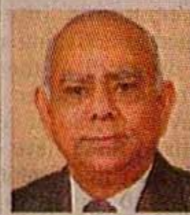
Pascal Lamy  
Commissioner of Trade  
European Union (EU)



Jean-René Fourtou  
Chairman  
ICC



Maria Livanos Cattaul  
Secretary General  
ICC



Mahbubur Rahman  
President  
ICC Bangladesh



Carin Jämtin  
Minister for Development  
Cooperation, Sweden



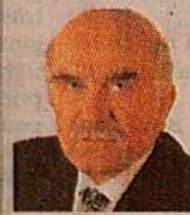
Ravi Karunanayake  
Minister for Commerce and  
Consumer Affairs, Sri Lanka



Rini M. Sumarno Soewandi  
Minister for Industry and Trade  
Republic of Indonesia



Kyosuke Shinozawa  
Governor  
JIBC



Ali Coskun  
Minister for Industry and Trade  
Turkey

## Bangladesh Faces the Challenge of Globalization

### Reliance on exports and remittances exposes vulnerability

WAHIDUDDIN MAHMUD  
YaleGlobal, 22 October 2003

**B**ANGLADESH faces the challenge of achieving accelerated economic growth and alleviating the massive poverty that afflicts nearly two-fifths of its 135 million people. To meet this challenge, market-oriented liberalizing policy reforms were initiated in the mid-1980s and were pursued much more vigorously in the 1990s. These reforms were particularly aimed at moving towards an open economic regime and integrating with the global economy.

During the 1990s, notable progress was made in economic performance. Along with maintaining economic stabilization with a significantly reduced and declining dependence on foreign aid, the economy appeared to begin a transition from stabilization to growth. The average annual growth in per capita

income had steadily accelerated from about 1.6 per cent per annum in the first half of the 1980s to 3.6 per cent by the latter half of the 1990s. This improved performance owed itself both to a slowdown in population growth and a sustained increase in the rate of GDP growth, which averaged 5.2 percent annually during the second half of the 1990s. During this time, progress in the human development indicators was even more impressive. Bangladesh was in fact among the top performing countries in the 1990s, when measured by its improvement in the Human Development Index (HDI) as estimated by the United Nations Development Project (UNDP). In terms of the increase in the value of HDI between 1990 and 2001, Bangladesh is surpassed only by China and Cape Verde.

While most low-income countries depend largely on the export of primary commodities, Bangladesh has made the transition from



being primarily a jute-exporting country to a garment-exporting one. This transition has been dictated by the country's resource endowment, characterized by extreme land scarcity and a very high population density, making economic growth dependent on the export of labor-intensive manufactures.

Although Bangladesh still does not rank among the most globally integrated developing economies, the pace of integration has been quite rapid. Until hit by the global recession in 2001, there had been robust and sustained growth of export earnings, averaging about 15 percent per year in the 1990s. As a result, the ratio of export earnings to GDP had nearly doubled to about 14 percent by the end of the decade. In 2001-02, however, export earnings declined in US dollar terms for the first time in nearly 15 years. Although there was a