

REGIONAL AUDITORS' GENERAL CONFERENCE ON HARMONIZING INSTITUTIONAL EFFORTS FOR PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR 30-31 AUGUST 2004

Venue : Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

ORGANIZED BY : THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL
OF BANGLADESH IN ASSOCIATION WITH WORLD BANK AND CIDA



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



President
People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I welcome the holding of 'Regional Auditors' General Conference on Harmonizing Institutional Efforts for Promoting Accountability in the Public Sector' in Dhaka, hosted by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh in association with the World Bank and CIDA.

In a democratic system of government the efforts to harmonize the role of institutions, working for enhancing accountability, can hardly be over emphasized. The participants and the delegates of supreme Audit Institutions can contribute a lot to better democratic governance through sharing of experiences and respective institutional efforts. The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General has attained a laudable degree of progress in ensuring transparency and accountability in public finance in Bangladesh. I hope that this Conference would further strengthen the capability of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General in promoting accountability.

I wish the Conference all success.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.

Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed

REGIONAL AUDITORS' GENERAL CONFERENCE

A Regional Auditors' General Conference is going to be held in Dhaka on 30-31 August 2004. The Conference is being sponsored by the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh in association with World Bank and CIDA. At least eight heads of Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) and another 22 delegates from Regional SAIs and observers from National Audit Office, UK, World Bank, DFID and CIDA are also going to attend the Conference.

The theme of the Conference is "Harmonizing Institutional Efforts for Promoting Accountability in the Public Sector".

Accountability in Public Sector refers to justification of performance guided by objectivity, rationality and priority. Of the various aspects for its establishment, at least three are prominent. First, the acceptance of stewardship responsibility by the public sector entities themselves that requires them to undertake certain internal control measures for the protection of resources. Second, independent and external assessment and reporting on the financial regularity, propriety and financial performance of those entities, which is accountability function performed by SAI. Third, the responsibility to act as a Supreme Body to provide synergistic support to produce attractive results in terms of input economy, operational efficiency and result-oriented effectiveness, which is accountability function by Parliament and its Committees. In various countries, there are other watch-dog agencies like Bureau of Anti Corruption, Ombudsman, Media, Civil Society etc., which can also function as oversight organizations.



Barrister Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar, MP
Speaker
Bangladesh Parliament

Message

Bismillah-ar-Rahman-ar-Rahim

I am happy to know that the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General is going to arrange a "Regional Auditors' General Conference."

I hope, through this conference the concerned officers will become more vigilant, efficient and accountable. Their activities will be transparent. The learning process would facilitate the successful disposal of constitutional obligation by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

I expect, the Participants of this conference, representing different countries, will exchange their views and experience to enrich their knowledge in respect of efficiency, transparency and accountability in the spending of public money. It is worth mentioning that the Parliament observes the activities of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General as public confidence is reposed in this high constitutional office.

I thank the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, World Bank and Canadian International Aid Organization for this effective and timely initiative.

I wish every success of the conference.

(Barrister Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar)

However, among the prominent categories by controls, oversight function of Parliament, more specifically, Parliamentary Committees and SAIs are more independent and effective than others and are in a better position to promote transparency and accountability in the use of public resources, which leads to economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money and resources.

Accountability mechanism vary from country to country. There is a long felt need for uniform best practices to be adopted in the region which has prompted the holding of this conference.

The conference paves the way for discussion on institutional efforts and practices in the regional countries for promoting accountability in the Public Sector. It is expected that the participants will be able to exchange views among themselves and reap benefits by sharing experiences and make recommendations to be adopted by the regional countries.

In this age of globalization and integration of economy and governance practices, it is imperative that Parliaments, Parliamentary Committees and SAIs of this region would come close to each other for assessing and appreciating of their institutional efforts and formulate best common procedures and practices that would be adopted by the participating countries for ensuring meaningful accountability regime for public sector operation in this part of the world.



M. Saifur Rahman
Minister
Ministry of Finance and Planning
Government of The People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

It is my pleasure to know that the 'Regional Auditors' General Conference on Harmonizing Institutional Efforts for Promoting Accountability in the Public Sector' organized by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh is going to be held in Dhaka. I am also delighted that the World Bank and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have come forward to join hands in organizing this Conference.

The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General is one of the foremost institutions of this country that is working for developing institutional base for the democracy and has also contributed in implementing an accountability chain for the public finances.

I believe that this Conference would facilitate institutional cooperation among the participating countries and the respective Supreme Audit Institutions.

I wish the Conference a great success.

(M. Saifur Rahman)



Asif Ali
Comptroller And Auditor General
of Bangladesh

Message

The Regional Conference on "Harmonizing Institutional Efforts for Promoting Accountability in the Public Sector" is a sequel to the recent reforms and re-vitalisation initiatives of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh. The necessity of converging the accountability efforts in the public sector by the pivotal institutions could hardly be over emphasised and the World Bank and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) made very timely moves to associate with CAG office on this venture.

Accountability enhancement in the public sector is a collective responsibility and each and every institution belonging to this partnership mainly, the Parliament, the Public Sector and the CAG has to play its role effectively.

I am so pleased that 30 delegates including a number of Auditors' General (SAI heads) is attending the conference to exchange experiences on this important main theme mentioned above as also the Sub-theme-I: "Private Public Partnership for enhancing accountability in the Public Sector" and Sub-theme-II: "Role of Parliamentary Financial Standing Committees for Promoting Accountability in the Public Sector". I am positive their participation will greatly benefit the deliberations and enable the conference draw meaningful and productive conclusions.

(Asif Ali)



Christine I. Wallich
Country Director
World Bank Office
Dhaka

Message

I am pleased to know that the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh (C&AG) is hosting an international conference on "Harmonizing Institutional Efforts for Promoting Accountability in the Public Sector" in Dhaka. We are happy to work with the C&AG on this timely initiative. The conference is of considerable international interest as it creates a platform for global collaboration to ensure transparency and accountability in public fund management.

The Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank have long been working together in many areas of development. The Bank has also been associated with Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) around the globe to promote accountability in the public sector.

Transparency and accountability in public administration are central to World Bank's support for promoting good governance in Bangladesh. We firmly believe that strong oversight is fundamental to improving transparency and accountability needed for good governance. The Office of the C&AG is a critical institution in this regard.

The conference, with distinguished participants from SAARC countries, regional heads of SAIs, and numerous other eminent guests will provide an excellent opportunity for sharing experiences among countries. We hope this will also create an opportunity for a partnership among the SAIs to attain their universal goals.

(Christine I. Wallich)



Robert Beadle
Acting High Commissioner and
Head of Development Cooperation
Canada

Message

I am pleased to know that the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh (C&AG) is organizing a Regional Auditors' General Conference on "Harmonizing Institutional Efforts for Promoting Accountability in the Public Sector" in Dhaka with the participation of SAARC countries and the Heads of Supreme Audit Institutions of a few other selected countries. I take this opportunity to convey the greetings and felicitations of the Government of Canada to the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, his colleagues and also to the distinguished participants of the conference.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is pleased to support this timely initiative of the C&AG of Bangladesh to organize the conference. This will provide a unique opportunity for the regional and sub-regional supreme audit institutions within ASOSAI to forge a common platform for synergy through cooperation, learning and sharing of ideas and experiences based on similar mandates and audit approaches. This initiative is also consistent with the Strategic Planning Task Force of INTOSAI.

We hope that the discussions and deliberations of the conference will facilitate addressing the challenges of the constitutional obligations and responsibilities of the supreme audit institutions related to oversight functions and ensuring fiscal propriety and discipline for spending of public funds through reform initiatives. I am confident that the deliberations by the distinguished participants will provide valuable input and contribute to attain the objectives of the conference.

I wish the conference all success.

(Robert Beadle)



Zakir Ahmed Khan
Secretary
Finance Division
Ministry of Finance
Government of The People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am extremely happy to learn that the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh is holding a regional Auditors' General Conference on "Harmonizing Institutional Efforts for Promoting Accountability in the Public Sector" at Dhaka in collaboration with the World Bank and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

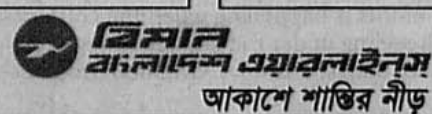
Transparency and accountability are two fundamental attributes that characterise good governance and they gain firmer roots in a democratic polity. Bangladesh, since its transition to democracy, has persistently maintained a course to broadening its institutional base and promoting an accountable, participatory and transparent system of governance.

I trust that this Conference will pool in a wealth of insights and experience from the participating countries in terms of promoting accountability in public sector. I believe that Bangladesh stands to gain from the outcome of this conference in its pursuit for consolidating an accountability regime that supports good governance.

I wish the Conference a success.

(Zakir Ahmed Khan)

COURTESY :



BASIC Bank Limited
(Bangladesh Small Industries and Commerce Bank Limited)