

Invest more in edn sector to achieve EFA goals by 2015

International meet urges govt, development partners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Fifth Meeting of Unesco's Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA) ended yesterday with a call to the governments and development partners to invest more in education sector in order to achieve EFA goals by 2015.

At the concluding ceremony of the international education meeting, the participants express concern over the slow progress towards achieving the goals and stressed the need to ensure right to education of the marginalised and excluded segments of the society.

Unesco in collaboration with Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) organised the three-day meeting at a city hotel.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Motahar Hossain, Secretary in-charge of primary and mass education ministry Abu Alam Mohammad Shaheed Khan, Campe Executive Director Rasheda K Chowdhury and Olav Seim,



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni speaks at the concluding session of the Fifth Meeting of Unesco's Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA) at a city hotel yesterday. On her right is Olav Seim and on her left is Rasheda K Chowdhury.

director, EFA International Coordination Team of Unesco, spoke at the programme.

The meeting formulated 'Dhaka Declaration' recommending increased attention both at national and international levels to neglected

dimensions of EFA, including the perspective of life-long learning, effective governance in education and recognising the relevance to reaching marginalised and excluded groups.

Recognising a serious financial gap for meeting EFA

goals by 2015, they proposed increased financial support through bilateral and multi-lateral aid, South-South cooperation and concessional windows from international financial institutions.

Speaking as the chief guest,

Dipu Moni said education is not only a fundamental right but also an essential tool to understand, assert and enjoy human rights.

There is no denying that marginalisation has been a problem for us, like in many developing countries, in ensuring access to education for all, she said, adding: "We have undertaken several programmes to attract the underprivileged children to school and to prevent drop-outs in the midway."

State Minister Motahar Hossain said the government is trying hard to bring all children to schools by 2010 instead of 2011 and make the country free from illiteracy by 2013 instead of 2013.

He urged all the development partners to come forward with their support for achieve the EFA goals by 2015.

Later at a press briefing, Rasheda K Chowdhury said, "We need \$16 billion per year but we receive only \$3 billion from the donors," adding that the government as well as the development partners must increase their funds.

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Warmly Welcome

The Delegation of China Textile Machinery Manufacturers and Suppliers headed by Mr. Zhu Baolin to visit Bangladesh

The delegates include Mr. Zhu Baolin the President and CEO of China Textile Industrial Corporation for Foreign Economic and Technical Cooperation (CTEXIC) and China Texmatech Co., Ltd. (CTMTC), Mr. Yao Yuming the Managing Director of Jingwei Textile Machinery Co., Ltd., Mr. Tang Qiwei the Managing Director of Zhengzhou Textile Machinery Co., Ltd., and other 11 executives from different subsidiaries under China Hi-Tech Group Corporation.

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