



Inauguration of Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh

at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel 6th February 2011



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

Message

I am delighted to learn that the Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh (FCB), a member of the World Federation of Consuls, is going to be formally inaugurated on February 06, 2011 in a defitting manner.

I am very pleased to know that FCB, in cooperation with Federations Internationale des Corps et Associations Consulaires (FICAC), is playing a pivotal role in making bridge among Consular Corps and Consular bodies and sharing the experiences and coordinating efforts to enhance the effectiveness of Consuls worldwide. I believe FCB would contribute more to enhance our bilateral relations with our friendly countries through its collective efforts based on the principle of our foreign policy "Friendship towards all, malice towards none".

I wish the inaugural ceremony and activities of FCB a success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Z Rahman
Md. Zillur Rahman



Dr. Dipu Moni, MP
Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of the peoples'
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I congratulate the Forum of Consuls Bangladesh (FCB) on this auspicious occasion of their inauguration as a member of the world Federation of Consuls (WFC) and would like to express my confidence in seeing them uphold the honour of the country in WFC, which has traditionally played an important role in the evolution of international relations since Roman times.

As foreign minister, I hope the FCB members will promote and strengthen mutual understanding among Honorary Consuls and the countries they represent worldwide.

I believe the FCB would adhere to the principles enshrined in the Vienna convention on Consular Relations-1963. I am confident that the FCB will play its role as a catalyst in promoting and fostering Bangladesh's relations with the countries they represent here.

Joi Bangla
Joi Bangabandhu

Dipu Moni
(Dr. Dipu Moni, MP)



Hon. Dato A.K.M Shahidul Islam
Chairman
Honorary Consul of Malaysia in
Chittagong

Message

It is with great pleasure and pride that, I welcome all the Honorary Consuls/Consul Generals from home and abroad to this historic event, specially to our World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) President Hon. Arnold Foote and Secretary General Hon. Aykut Eken to take the trouble to be with us today.

I convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Hon'ble President H.E. Md. Zillur Rahman of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Minister for Planning Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) A.K. Khandker, BU., Minister for Foreign Affairs Her Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni, MP., and her office for extending extra ordinary cooperation to the Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh (FCB).

It is my sincere desire that the FCB will play its proper roles in the Diplomatic community in its proper perspectives.

Last but not the least I thank our Secretary General Hon. Asif A. Chowdhury and members of the Executive Committee for their hard and laudable task to make the event successful.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the FCB, I thank the Diplomatic/ Consular Corps and its members, members from the print and electronic media for their support.

A.K.M. Shahidul Islam
Dato A.K.M. Shahidul Islam
Chairman
Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh



About FICAC

WHAT IS FICAC?

The World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) is an organization of Consuls all over the world who seek to:

- I Get to know one another
- I Meet together
- I Exchange views
- I Act together

The "Federation Internationale des Corps et Associations Consulaires," (FICAC) was established in Copenhagen in October 1982. It was born of the necessity to bring together Consular Associations or Corps from all over the world and to share experience, and coordinate efforts to enhance the status and effectiveness of the Consul, the oldest institutions serving international bilateral relations.

FICAC is a global network of Consular Associations created to support and improve the status, legitimacy and effectiveness of all consular officers in all receiving States.

FICAC's aims are to promote and strengthen mutual understanding between Honorary Consuls and Career Consuls worldwide; develop a framework and basis for exchange of current information, ideas and suggestions regarding matters related to the office of Honorary Consuls and Career Consuls; promote at national level and international for a better understanding of duties and responsibilities, rights and privileges of Honorary Consuls and Career Consuls. New Member Associations will always be welcome.

Since 1993, FICAC has been recognized in the United Nations as a UN NGO (Ecosoc Observer Status), and has been accredited by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States of March 13, 2002 as a Civil Society.

FICAC website: www.ficacworld.org



Hon. Asif A. Chowdhury
Secretary General
Honorary Consul of Chile



About Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh

The Honorary Consul is defined in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963, in its point 2 of Article 1, which reads as follows: "Consular officers are of two categories, namely career consular officers and honorary consular officers". In practical terms, the difference between a career consular officer and an honorary one is that the latter does not belong to the official diplomatic and consular cadre of the sending state, i.e., not a state-employee, and usually is a well-known and respectable citizen or permanent resident of the receiving state. Furthermore, service as an honorary consul is usually not his or her main source of income.

An honorary diplomat is normally appointed by countries who cannot afford or do not wish to spend the substantial amounts required to set up an office. Even for states with greater financial capabilities, the increase of cultural, touristy, economic and trade relations with distant places of the world rendered the performance of consular functions only through diplomatic missions virtually impossible, due to the very nature of the fact that embassies are located only in the capitals of the receiving states while even the richest states may not be able to afford setting up consulates headed by career consuls in every important city of a receiving State where such offices may be required in their own interests.

Appointing an Honorary Consul saves them the cost of supporting a staff and sending out their own citizens as full time diplomatic representatives abroad. The work of an honorary consul is exactly the same as that of a career diplomat of the same rank. Typically, this work involves issuing or renewing visas and passports, helping businessmen and tourists with problems, promoting commerce and cultural exchanges.

In Bangladesh, Honorary Consular Officers, Consuls General and Consuls have been appointed in Dhaka and Chittagong by as many as 39 countries.

Honorary Consuls General/Consuls in Bangladesh have an association, namely, "Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh" (FCB) with the following aims and objectives:-

- a) To encourage, organize and develop the relationship among the Consuls General/Consuls in Bangladesh and secure and protect their interest in all respect.
- b) To secure and ensure the facilities, privileges and immunities relating to Consular posts.
- c) To promote and foster ideas of co-operation and mutual help amongst the members.
- d) To develop & maintain a good relation & co-operation between all Members.
- e) To enrich the activities of the office of the consuls for building the countries images.
- f) To publish journals, magazines and other publications about latest information related to consular relations.
- g) To take all steps may be necessary for promoting or any other action affecting the consuls and in general to take initiative to secure and safeguard the interests of the Consular community in all respects.
- h) To convene, when necessary, conferences, seminar, workshop and round table discussion at such time and at such places as may be determined.
- i) To do all such other things as may be conducive to the business or incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects of the Forum or any of them.
- j) To subscribe to, or become a member of, The Federations Internationale des Corps et Associations Consulaires (FICAC) and procure and communication with any incorporated organization such information as may be likely to forward the objects of the Association.
- k) To accept any request, domain, gift contribution or subscription towards promoting and maintenance of the objects of the Company and to create and provide funds and to invest and apply



Air Vice Marshal (Rtd.) A K Khandker
Minister
Ministry of Planning
Government of the peoples'
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

It is a privilege for me to be a part of the official initiation of the Forum of Consuls of Bangladesh into the World Federation of Consuls.

I congratulate all the members of the Forums of Consuls of Bangladesh, on their entry into FICAC and I hope to see them play their roles responsibly, in upholding the honour of not only the countries they represent, but also of Bangladesh itself, which is a part of their very diverse role.

Countries from almost every part of the world are represented here in Bangladesh through their consuls and they play an important role in facilitating relations between Bangladesh and the countries they represent. Budgetary reasons may restrict governments abilities to operate full embassies in many countries but that should not undermine the ability of our peoples to interact. That places a grave responsibility on the shoulders of Consuls.

I hope you all meet the responsibility with due deference.

Thanking you.

A K Khandker
Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) A K Khandker, BU



Hon. Arnold Foote, OJ. CD., JP
President
World Federation of Consuls

Message

It is with a deep sense of pride that I congratulate the Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh (Consular Corps of the Bangladesh) at their inauguration.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the World Federation of Consuls, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome all delegates to this historic event.

This FICAC South Asia Regional bonds of existing friendship as well as form new friendship and develop a deeper understanding between the countries that we have the honour to represent.

This is most important as the advances in technology in this millennium have changed the world to what is described as a global village, Living in this environment demands interdependency between countries which has significantly changed the way we think and relate to each other.

As consuls representing countries worldwide, this has placed, ad continues to place, a tremendous responsibility on us. The policies and programmes that our countries adopt will impact greatly on the kind of world that will emerge. Our decisions and advice to our Governments must, therefore, be based on sound, well-researched information.

I feel certain that you all will benefit greatly from this event, and this experience will lead to new and better avenues of cooperation between the countries involved, and that we all will become better equipped to serve our respective countries in the future.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the World Federation of Consuls, I thank the Chairman (Dean) and members of the Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh (FCB), the members of the Organizing Committee for their excellent work and the great contribution it is making to the Consular community of the South Asia Region and the world, and extend the warmest welcome to all delegates attending this historic and important event.

Hon. Arnold Foote, OJ. CD., JP
President
World Federation of Consuls



Aykut EKEN
Secretary General
World Federation of Consuls (FICAC)

Message

I feel honoured to be a part of this official inauguration today, of the Forum of Consuls of Bangladesh as a member of the World Federation of Consuls.

I congratulate all the individual members of the Forum of Consuls of Bangladesh, on their ascending into FICAC, and I hope to see them play their roles with dignity, in upholding the honour of the countries they represent, as well as Bangladesh, which is a part of their important role.

Established in Copenhagen in October 1982, FICAC has played an important role in sharing the experiences and coordinating efforts to enhance the effectiveness of Consuls worldwide. Through membership in FICAC, we hope the members of FCB can also play a part in promoting and strengthening mutual understanding between Honorary Consuls worldwide.

I hope to see FCB fulfil their promise, and in cooperation with FICAC, continue to promote and foster cooperative relations between Bangladesh and all of the countries they represent here.

Thanking you,

Aykut EKEN
Secretary General
World Federation of Consuls (FICAC)

Forum of Consuls in Bangladesh Committee



Chairman
Hon. Dato A.K.M Shahidul Islam
Honorary Consul of Malaysia in
Chittagong



Immn. Past Chairman
Hon. Salahuddin Kasem Khan
Honorary Consul General of
Turkey in Chittagong



Vice Chairman
Hon. Badrul Huda Khandker
Honorary Consul General of
Tunisia



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Moldova



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Kyrgyz Republic



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