



5th WIEF ROUNDTABLE

RADISSON HOTEL, DHAKA, BANGLADESH
19-20 March, 2012

SEACO

South East Asian Co-operation
FOUNDATION

In Collaboration with:



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

17 Falgun 1418
29 February 2012

Message

I am pleased to learn that World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) is going to organise a two-day Round Table in Dhaka on 19-20 March, 2012.

Bangladesh is closely associated with the different international organizations for fostering ties and co-operation among the global communities. I have been informed that WIEF is serving for the entire world community particularly underdeveloped and developing one. It has provided us with an opportunity to benefit from the global process of development and remain associated with a noble task of improving the life of our people through a coordinated effort. I believe the Round Table would contribute in cementing our bilateral and multilateral relations with participating countries.

I wish the WIEF Round Table in Dhaka a success.
Khoda Hafez, My Bangladesh Live Forever.

Md. Zillur Rahman

Md. Zillur Rahman



GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

Message

I am pleased that the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF), an OIC platform of business leaders, is going to organize a two-day Roundtable in Dhaka on 19-20 March 2012 on some contemporary issues.

Bangladesh is closely related with activities of WIEF, at both government and private levels. The Bangladesh delegation led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made substantial contribution to the 6th WIEF summit in Kuala Lumpur in 2010. Participation of business leaders from Bangladesh in the 7th forum in Kazakhstan in 2011 also proved beneficial for us.

I hope, the Roundtable would not only foster wider cooperative relations amongst the stakeholders, but would also raise awareness on issues such as combating challenges of climate change, Islamic Micro Finance as a tool for poverty alleviation and regional cooperation in higher education.

I wish the WIEF Roundtable in Dhaka success.

Joy Bangla!
Joy Bangabandhu!

(Dr. Dipu Moni, MP)

(Dr. Dipu Moni, MP)



BANGLADESH BANK
(Central Bank of Bangladesh)

Dr. Atiur Rahman
Governor

Date: 26 February, 2012

Message

I am delighted to know that World Islamic Economic Forum-WIEF, is going to organize a two days Roundtable in Dhaka on 19 and 20 March,

2012, on some important current issues. It is also a matter of immense satisfaction that some Bangladeshi organizations such as SEACO Foundation, Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber and Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, are collaborating with it in holding this Roundtable. It is evident from various activities of WIEF that it has emerged as a global platform of business leaders and been working to foster close business ties and cooperation at different levels.

Bangladesh is closely associated with manifold programmes of WIEF at government and private levels. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led Bangladesh delegation at 6th WIEF forum in Kuala Lumpur in 2010 which contributed immensely in cementing our bilateral and multilateral relations with participating countries particularly those South East Asia. Participation of some Bangladesh business leaders in the 7th Forum in Kazakhstan in 2011, also proved to be beneficial for us.

WIEF is a pro-active organization and proved that business is not only the basis of prosperity and development but also a media for wider cooperative relations at regional and global level. Organizing forthcoming Roundtable by WIEF in Dhaka is a clear indication that it attaches great importance to our country for which we are thankful to it.

I wish the WIEF Roundtable in Dhaka a great success.

(Dr. Atiur Rahman)

(Dr. Atiur Rahman)



SEACO
South East Asian Co-operation
FOUNDATION

Chairman, SEACO Foundation

I am very happy and privileged to be associated with a great task of organizing 5th World Islamic Economic Forum-WIEF, Roundtable in Dhaka on 19 and 20 March, 2012 on various

important current issues namely climate change, Islamic Micro Finance and Regional Cooperation in Higher Education. It is a matter of great satisfaction that some Bangladeshi organizations such as SEACO Foundation, Malaysian High Commission in Bangladesh, Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs are collaborating with us in holding the Roundtable.

From my long association with WIEF I found that it has emerged as a global platform of Muslim business leaders and been working to foster close business ties and cooperation among different countries. Bangladesh is closely associated with its manifold programmes at various levels. During my participation in a number of forums and various other programmes of WIEF I met many regional and world business leaders and exchanged views with them on various issues of common concern with resultant positive outcomes for Bangladesh.

We hope that by organizing this Roundtable successfully in Dhaka by active support and cooperation of all stake holders, we will prove our ability to organize much bigger events in Dhaka.

(Ambassador Mohammed Mohsin)

Ambassador Mohammed Mohsin

World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation (WIEF): Working for global prosperity

World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) started functioning in 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia aiming at forging greater economic cooperation among Muslim and non-muslim countries. Gradually, it emerged as a global business platform showcasing commercial opportunities especially in the Muslim world. WIEF continues to make its presence more visible in the world business landscape. Its annual participation rose steadily from a mere 600 delegates from Asian region in 2005 to more than 2000 delegates from various countries worldwide in 2011. Till now WIEF organized 7 Summit level meetings - first one being in Kuala Lumpur in 2005 and the latest one in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2011. It became customary for the WIEF to organize regional level Roundtable Conferences in between two summit meetings. The previous such RT was held in South Africa. Bangladesh is closely associated with WIEF's manifold activities at Government and private levels. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led Bangladesh delegation to the 6th WIEF Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 2010 which contributed immensely in cementing our bilateral and multilateral relations with the participating countries, particularly those of South and South East Asia. Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina had proposed in the 6th WIEF Summit "I call upon the members of the World Islamic Economic Forum to establish a task force to study the challenges of climate change and offer support to Islamic countries adversely affected by climate change."



Many Bangladeshi business leaders also participated in the 7th WIEF meeting in Kazakhstan and thus contributed towards improving our relations with Central Asian countries. Global issues discussed at the previous World Islamic Forums were most timely and pertinent to the Islamic world. Advent of frequent global financial crises is opening the prospect of Islamic banking and finance providing a credible alternative to conventional financial systems. The Dhaka Roundtable will address issues of crucial importance to the countries of South and South East Asia. WIEF Foundation consist of following committee:

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5th WIEF Roundtable Dhaka 2012

The WIEF Roundtable to be organized on 19-20 March 2012 is a joint collaboration between the WIEF Foundation and the SEACO Foundation, with the staunch support of the Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, the Bangladesh Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the High Commission of Malaysia in Dhaka.

This unique collaborative effort strongly reflects the overarching theme and aim of the Roundtable in promoting cooperation in the South Asian region. Three important issues have been specifically selected for the WIEF Roundtable in Dhaka; climate change, Islamic microfinance and education.

Climate change is an issue that many have called the greatest development challenge of our generation. South and South East Asia in particular has emerged as a global leader in aggressively responding to climate change not only at the national but regional level as well. It is thus, quite apt for the first segment of the WIEF Roundtable, "Regional Cooperation to Combat Climate Change: The Way Forward", to address the issue of climate change, its impact on the economies of the South and South East Asian countries, the strategies formulated at local and regional level to ensure effective and constructive measures are undertaken to minimize the impact of this global challenge.

"Islamic Micro Finance: An Instrument for Poverty Alleviation", the second topic of the WIEF Roundtable is expected to attract much discourse. The Islamic Microfinance, a confluence of two rapidly growing industries - microfinance and Islamic finance, has the potential to not only respond to unmet demand but also to combine the Islamic social principle of caring for the less fortunate. Our learned Role Players will share their unique experiences in providing Islamic microfinance to their respective communities, the challenges and prospects of developing a healthy Islamic microfinance industry as well as their perspectives on the use of zakat as a source of funding.

The last segment of the WIEF Roundtable, **"Private Higher Education: Creating World Class Institutions through Regional Cooperation"** will address the growth phenomenon of private higher institutions, the factors that fuel the growth and the importance of this sector to the socioeconomic development of the Muslim world. More importantly, the segment will also explore how national governments can provide enabling environment to create world class higher education system as well as the initiatives that could be undertaken by both public and private higher education institutions to achieve world class ranking.

South East Asian Co-operation : SEACO Foundation at a glance

South East Asian Co-operation (SEACO Foundation) has been formed by the initiatives of SEACO Task Force, Bangladesh, SK & FK Foundation and eminent personalities of Bangladesh to implement the SEACO vision of Regional and Sub-Regional cooperation among OIC Countries in South and South East Asia comprising of Bangladesh, Brunei Dar us Salam, Maldives, Malaysia and Indonesia. This vision was first proposed in Bandung, Indonesia in 1992. The SEACO Foundation is established to promote a broad based civil society platform to the SEACO Task Force, Bangladesh which was set up to replace the SEACO Follow up Committee 1994, re-constituted in 2004 to lobby for the implementation of the SEACO Resolutions among OIC Countries in South and South East Asia. The SEACO Task Force was formed with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Bangladesh. SEACO was endorsed by number of OIC Foreign Ministers Conference (24th ICFM Khartoum, 25th ICFM Mali and 29th ICFM Kuala Lumpur) and finally the OIC Summit, Qatar in 2000. It is note worthy that a SEACO Task Force Malaysia was established in KL in 2011 and steps are underway to set up to SEACO Task Force Indonesia to be followed by Brunei and Maldives Task Forces. SEACO Foundation works closely with the Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI), WIEF and other similar organizations in furthering its objectives. Importance of Regional cooperation through SEACO type Organizations were emphasized by Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Nazib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia during his speech in the 6th WIEF Summit : "We need to think anew and move beyond our conventional frameworks. This may require a new economic model for the region, if necessary, that is designed to meet the specific needs of the Muslim world.... It is time for Muslim nations to consider holding an OIC ECONOMIC SUMMIT in collaboration with the Islamic Summit Conference". SEACO Foundation is planning to establish a regional University (SEACO University) in Bangladesh with active support from SEACO member states. The Foundation is also offering SEACO scholarship to deserving Bangladeshi students for their study in Malaysian Universities.



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PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

05 Chaitra 1418
19 March 2012

Message

I am happy to know that the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) is going to organize a two day 'roundtable' on some important current issues in Dhaka on 19-20 March 2012, in collaboration with South East Asian Cooperation Foundation, Bangladesh and in collaboration with Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs.

WIEF is working to foster close business ties and cooperation at global level. Bangladesh is closely associated with its manifold programmes at government and private levels.

I hope, the 'roundtable' in Dhaka will create a wider cooperative relation between WIEF and Bangladesh.

I wish the WIEF 'roundtable' in Dhaka a great success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina

Sheikh Hasina



Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP
Minister
Ministry of Environment & Forest
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that World Islamic Economic Forum-WIEF is organizing a Round Table in Dhaka on 19 and 20 March, 2012, in collaboration with SEACO Foundation Bangladesh, Bangladesh-

Malaysia Chamber and Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, on various important current issues such as Climate Change, Islamic Micro Finance and Regional Cooperation in Higher Education.

Multifarious activities of WIEF show that it has emerged as a global platform of Muslim business leaders and been working to foster close business ties and cooperation at different levels among OIC and other countries. Bangladesh is a close partner of WIEF in its various programs. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led Bangladesh delegation at the 6th WIEF forum in Kuala Lumpur in 2010, which contributed immensely in cementing our bilateral and multilateral relations with the participating countries. Some business leaders of Bangladesh also joined the 7th WIEF Forum held in Kazakhstan in 2011.

Recently, WIEF diversified its activities and extended its working agenda to include burning current issues like Climate Change. As a pro-active organization WIEF provided evidences that business is not only the basis of prosperity and development but also platform for wider cooperative relations among different countries. Holding of forthcoming Round Table by WIEF in Dhaka is a clear indication that it attaches enormous importance to our country. We hope that by organizing this Round Table successfully with active support and cooperation of all stake-holders we will prove our ability to organize much bigger event in Dhaka.

I wish WIEF Round Table in Dhaka a great success.

(Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP)



Foreword



I am delighted that, after several successful attempts, we are now able to finally organise a WIEF event in Bangladesh. This 5th WIEF Roundtable, held in between our annual forum, is part of our on-going series of programmes and activities dedicated to bringing together thought leaders, academics, business entrepreneurs and decision makers to discuss issues of common concern affecting the Muslim community. In this regard I am particularly pleased to see three major current issues relating to climate change, micro finance and private higher education enjoying special focus during the Roundtable. A greater understanding of these issues and their relevance would no doubt be helpful in enabling both the Government and the private sector to collaborate and move forward with concrete action plans for the benefit of the people at large. On behalf of the WIEF Foundation, I wish to take this opportunity to record our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Bangladesh Organising Committee, in particular Chairman Salahuddin Kasem Khan, the SEACO Foundation, the Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, the Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Government of Bangladesh, the Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka as well as our key sponsors for their support and cooperation and for their untiring efforts in collaborating with the WIEF Foundation to ensure the success of this Roundtable. As a Foundation dedicated to enhancing the socio-economic progress and wellbeing of the Ummah by building bridges through trade and business, we look forward to holding more mutually beneficial programs in Bangladesh and the region in the years ahead.

Tun Musa Hitam

Tun Musa Hitam
Chairman,
World Islamic Economic Foundation



South East Asian Co-operation
FOUNDATION

Message from the Executive Chairman, SEACO Foundation

SEACO Foundation in Bangladesh feels privileged to be associated with the task of organizing the 5th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) Round Table in Dhaka on 19 and 20 March, 2012. Climate Change, Islamic Micro Finance and Regional Cooperation in Higher Education which were important issues raised at the previous WIEF Forums, will be discussed in the 5th Round Table and we hope to achieve actionable outcomes.

We are grateful to WIEF Foundation for their strong support. We also sincerely thank Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka, Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) and Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (BWF), for their collaboration in organizing this 5th WIEF Round Table.

WIEF has emerged as a global platform of Muslim and World Business Leaders, has been working to foster closer business ties and cooperation at different levels among OIC and other countries. Bangladeshi business community is closely associated with WIEF's manifold programmes since its inception. The importance attached by the Government of Bangladesh to WIEF is recognized by the fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led a large Bangladesh delegation to the 6th WIEF Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 2010 where she proposed the formation of a "Task Force on Climate Change". This will be one of the key sessions of the Dhaka Round Table.

WIEF is working consistently to promote the cause of the entire World Community, particularly the underdeveloped and developing countries. We hope that by organizing this Round Table successfully, through active support and cooperation of all stake holders, we will prove our ability to organize a much larger WIEF event in Dhaka in the future in order "to build bridges through business".

Salahuddin Kasem Khan

Salahuddin Kasem Khan
Member, IAP, WIEF
Chairman, Organizing Committee
5th WIEF Round Table, Dhaka

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