



Message

I would like to congratulate Germany and Bangladesh for 40 years of partnership. The 3rd October 2012 marks 22 years since German re-unification. But it is also a time to celebrate the growing unity between these two entrepreneurial nations.

It is amazing that today we can describe a trade relationship worth over \$4 Billion; that we can say Germany is the second biggest market for Bangladesh's exports; and that many German companies have thriving business with Bangladesh. Just 10 years ago, a year before the BGCCI was born with 30 founding members; bilateral trade was not worth \$1 Billion. Now we can thank our 370 members for making BGCCI the biggest bilateral business chamber in Bangladesh.

Trade can only flourish in this way with the right environment. Diplomacy plays an important part in creating this, and in particular the 12 past months have been remarkable. Prime Minister, H.E. Sheikh Hasina visited Berlin, where she met with Chancellor, H.E. Angela Merkel and a BGCCI business delegation. For the first time in 25 years, the German President came to Dhaka. And the Foreign Minister of Germany followed just a few weeks ago. BGCCI was proud to have a central role in these landmark events.

As its biggest economy, exporter and importer, Germany will lead Europe's recovery. More than half of Bangladesh's export value is to the EU, so this is also critical to Bangladesh. BGCCI is therefore pleased to be the only bilateral chamber to accept members from across the EU, so we can promote the wider trade relationship. In the years to come, European companies will look east for growth opportunities in emerging markets. BGCCI hopes to encourage many of them to choose Bangladesh.

BGCCI is optimistic on the prospects for bilateral business. The decade ahead offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Global growth will be concentrated in developing markets, especially in Asia. Bangladesh is located in the heart of

this and can become an export hub for a region of more than 3 billion people, evermore of them middle-class. This will take Bangladesh towards middle-class status itself. The engine for this growth will be its dynamic workforce, the world's 7th biggest. But to seize this opportunity Bangladesh must invest in energy and transport infrastructure; develop reliable, efficient and consistent institutions; be bold and decisive with policies for growth; and progress up the manufacturing value-chain.

Germany is uniquely positioned to support Bangladesh's transition. Today German companies bring high-end engineering to Bangladesh by exporting machinery, electrical equipment, and optical/ medical equipment. They provide quality chemicals for manufacturing, and building materials for the construction boom. German expertise in energy and transport is helping Bangladesh address its infrastructure challenges. And German providers are supporting Bangladesh's critical export industries with services in logistics, testing, IT and trade finance. German companies will continue to deliver technology for Bangladesh to diversify its manufacturing base. In time, Bangladesh will also prove an important market for German cars, business services, and healthcare technology and services.

BGCCI will be here to facilitate Bangladeshi European trade by offering services to our members. From mediation, visa support services, market research and company set-up; to match-making, business delegations, and recruitment; our services will smooth the bilateral business challenges of Bangladeshi and European companies. Additionally, we have three areas of strategic focus: Vocational Training, Global Social Responsibility (GSR) and Branding Bangladesh.

Germany's vocational training system is world-renowned and underpins its technological excellence. BGCCI aims to bring this knowledge to Bangladesh to up-skill the workforce.

Only sustainable business practices can ensure Bangladesh's long-



Abu Sakhawat
BGCCI President

term competitive growth and Europe has the technology and expertise to support Bangladesh in the process. BGCCI will spread this message at the GSR Conference 2013 on February 28th, focusing on Water, Energy, Waste and Compliance.

BGCCI's Branding Bangladesh campaign is building the awareness and positive perception of Bangladesh in Europe. The chamber engages with journalists, entrepreneurs, and ministries, sharing Bangladesh's success stories and explaining the mutual opportunities that exist. Earlier this year, the chamber supported McKinsey and Company in releasing a study on the RMG sector, raising Bangladesh's profile among a global business audience. When the image of Emerging Market Bangladesh is known, realistic media coverage and new investment will follow.

BGCCI would like to express thanks to those who have made German-Bangladeshi unity so strong. I thank the Executive Board and the Executive Director Daniel Seidl and our Chief Advisor Saiful Islam for their commitment to the chamber and the bilateral partnership. We thank the German institutions with whom we enjoy excellent cooperation: the German Embassy, GIZ, KfW, KAS, FNS, FES and Goethe Institut. And we thank the Bangladeshi, German and European entrepreneurs who are creating business and jobs at home and abroad, especially our 370 members.

Germany: Environmental policy pioneer

A modern climate and energy policy, renewable energies, green technologies, and the phasing out of nuclear power

OUR environment needs to be preserved and our climate protected. These global challenges of the 21st century are accorded a prime status in German politics, media and civil society. Internationally, Germany is considered to be one of the forerunners in climate protection and a pioneer in developing renewable energies. In 2011 Germany was the first industrial nation to decide to opt out of nuclear power. Beyond its own borders, the government assumes an active role in environmental protection, climate-friendly development strategies and energy partnerships at the global level, too. The Secretariat which supports the operation of the United Nations

Climate Change Convention on Climate Change is headquartered in Bonn. Since 1990, Germany has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by almost 24 percent, and thus has already fulfilled its obligations outlined in the Kyoto Protocol which came into force in 2005, of a 21 percent reduction by 2012. Germany is in one of the best placed countries in the 2011 global Climate Change Performance Index, compiled by "Germanwatch", an independent environmental protection organization. For years now, Germany has been following a course which mainstreams climate and environmental protection in terms of sustainable management. The key to this policy is to

increase energy and resource efficiency and to develop renewable energies and raw materials. This promotes the development of new energy technologies both on the supply side, in power stations and renewable energy plants, and on the demand side where energy is used.

Nature conservation ("the conservation and protection of the natural foundations of life") has been enshrined as a state objective in Article 20a of the Basic Law, Germany's constitution, since 1994. Intact natural systems, pure air and clean waterways are preconditions for a high quality of life and of the environment in Germany. As many emissions have been consider-

ably reduced in recent years, environmental indicators are pointing in a positive direction as regards the prevention of air and water pollution. Greenhouse gas emissions from road traffic have been decreasing since 1999, despite a significant increase in traffic, and are now below the 1990 level. Outfitting motor vehicles with catalytic converters is, along with other measures, partly responsible for a roughly 50 percent reduction in nitrous oxide emissions. Sulfur dioxide emissions from coal and lignite power stations were able to be lowered by 90 percent owing to the mandatory flue gas desulfurization process. Germans also use less drinking water than before: over the past few years, the daily per capita rate of drinking water consumption has decreased from 144 liters to 121 liters, the second lowest rate of all industrialized countries.

Phasing out nuclear power

Fossil fuels still stand for most of the energy mix both in private households and for traffic and industry. With a share totaling about 35 percent, petroleum is the most important primary energy source, followed by natural gas, coal, nuclear fuel and lignite. The Federal Government plans to gradually phase out nuclear power, which now accounts for around



The car-free island of Hiddensee in the Baltic Sea

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*Wishing a Happy & Successful
German National Day 2012*

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GIZ profile

The services delivered by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH draw on a wealth of regional and technical expertise and tried and tested management know-how. As a federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ is also engaged in international educational work around the globe.

GIZ in Bangladesh

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ has provided technical cooperation to many important initiatives of the Government of Bangladesh since the country's independence. GIZ is focused on the three priority areas of Bangladeshi-German development cooperation as agreed by our two countries: health care, energy, and governance and local development. In addition, GIZ is supporting the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP).