



MCCI
Since 1904
METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA

Ms. Rokia Afzal Rahman
PRESIDENT
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Dhaka

Message

On 18 October 2014, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, (MCCI), celebrates its 110th anniversary. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the members of our organization and welcome our distinguished guests, particularly former President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, to the celebration programs.

We have indeed come a long way from the establishment of the Chamber in 1904, when a group of enthusiastic business people came together to build the foundation of the Chamber and vowed to work for the region's economic progress. Generations of leaders have since passed through the hallowed halls of this institution and each has played a pivotal role in the advancement and economic development of the region and the Country. I take great pleasure in acknowledging the leadership, commitment and drive of the former Presidents of MCCI, who have steered this organization to the preminent status it enjoys today.

Over the years the Chamber has undertaken wide-ranging research on the economy, trade and business. This has been disseminated to its members, other stakeholders and the public at large through workshops, seminars and press releases. It has been our privilege to be a vital resource and support for the Government as well as our members.

We are proponents of ethical business, good governance and transparency in businesses. At MCCI, we believe that ethics in business is essential for sustainable growth.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Bangladesh, particularly the Prime Minister's Office, the Finance Ministry, Commerce Ministry and the Ministry of Industries, with whom we have worked and will continue to work closely to remove barriers to and facilitate trade and investment in the Country.

As we step into the 111 year of MCCI, I on behalf of the members of the Chamber, pledge to uphold the legacy that our predecessors have bequeathed to us. We will continue to place the interests of the country and its people foremost to take us to even greater heights in the years to come.

With my finest compliments

Rokia Afzal Rahman
President



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Anis A. Khan
Chair Person
Organizing Committee
110th Anniversary Celebration – MCCI
and
Vice-President
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Dhaka

Message

It is with much delight that I welcome you all to the 110th anniversary celebrations of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka.

The foundation of the Chamber in 1904 marked a turning point in relations between government and business in the country. Over the course of the last century and more, MCCI has been able to establish itself as a key player in creating a thriving business environment, in promoting the interests of our entrepreneurs in the domestic arena as well as in international relations. Our members remain steadfast in support of MCCI's mission to promote business and investment, sharing a common belief that open and fair markets can bring about positive changes, both at home and abroad.

We are especially honored by the presence of His Excellency Dr. A. P. J. Abul Kalam, former President of the Republic of India at the 110 year celebrations. President Kalam's works are indeed a matter of great inspiration in our common pursuit of industrial progress and economic excellence through the right application of knowledge, innovation and commitment.

On behalf of all members of the Organizing Committee, I wish to thank the President Ms. Rokia Afzal Rahman and all members of the Chamber Committee, for giving us the rare opportunity of organizing this spectacular event. I am also grateful to the Chamber Secretariat, led by the Secretary General Farooq Ahmed, for extending its wholehearted support to the organization of the celebrations. Arranging an event of such a magnitude is not an easy task, and there have been many challenges along the way. However, we are finally here, and I congratulate everyone, who have worked tirelessly throughout the last few months for staging the event.

Going forward, MCCI faces a number of challenges. As the representative body of the business community in this country, it must continue to serve its members with added vigour and vision. At the same time, we must attract young professionals and businesspersons to strengthen its leadership pool. And in an increasingly globalized economy, the Chamber must help its members identify and seize opportunities abroad.

Before concluding, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all members for all that MCCI has accomplished, not only in the past year, but over the past eleven decades. The key to MCCI's success in its 110 year existence has been its pioneering spirit and forward looking vision. I am therefore confident that the Chamber will continue to build on its many achievements and leave a proud legacy for the next generation of Bangladeshi citizens. I wish all who make up MCCI, every success, as we embark on our next 100 years.

Anis A. Khan

A journey of 110 years

Founded in 1904, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) celebrates its 110th anniversary this year. It can legitimately boast of the contributions it has been making during the years of its long history to the development of industry and trade in the country. In the 110 years of its existence, the Chamber witnessed many momentous events of considerable significance. It witnessed two world wars, the emergence of many sovereign independent states, including the independence and partition of the Indian sub-continent, the creation of the World Bank and the IMF in 1944 and GATT in 1947, proliferation of regional integration schemes in different regions following the formation of the European Common Market in 1959, and the emergence of WTO, replacing GATT, in 1994.

The most important and a landmark event for Bangladesh was its emergence as a separate independent nation in 1971 after a bloody 9-month armed struggle with Pakistan. While the Chamber made its presence felt even in the pre-independence days, when the country was under the British colonial regime or under the domination of Pakistan, its activities increased manifold in the independent Bangladesh as the changed situation demanded a radical change in the new nation's economic and social policies. The Chamber feels proud that it was able to extend its humble assistance to government in those crucial early days by offering its views in matters of formulating national economic policies, such as trade and industrial policy, monetary and exchange rate policies, and policies relating to taxes, expenditure and public borrowing.

In the formative stage of South Asian economic cooperation, which was initiated by Bangladesh, as also in its subsequent phases during the formation of SAPTA and SAFTA, the Chamber offered suggestions to government to safeguard the country's interest in the emerging integration scheme. The Chamber has also had growing interaction with government in respect of negotiations in the Uruguay Round, participation in successive ministerial meetings of the WTO, prominent among which were the First Ministerial Meeting in Singapore (1996), the Third Ministerial in Doha in 2001, the Fifth Ministerial in Hong Kong in 2005, and the Ninth Ministerial in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013.

The Chamber has been making representations to government on regular basis regarding the setting of administered prices for electricity, water, natural gas and petroleum products, so that government decision on price setting does not adversely affect manufacturing and agricultural production and harm consumers.

To promote the interest of industry and business and enhance production and trade, the Chamber has over the years made detailed proposals to government for rationalization of taxes in its annual budgets. It has been very effectively promoting and protecting the interests of trade and industry in plans and policies formulated by government. The Chamber's non-political character earned it wide respect and its views were heard and appreciated by all successive governments irrespective of their professed political ideology and dispensation.

From its very inception, the Chamber has represented the best of traditions expected of representative business forums and best of ethics in trade and industry. Being the oldest organization of its kind, the Metropolitan Chamber has proved to be the most effective channel of communication between the country's business community and the government. It has to its credit the unique record of bringing together matured, well-informed, and socially responsible business expertise to offer meaningful suggestions to government to tackle crucial economic problems.

The Chamber has acted as a catalyst of useful information and rendered expert services to its member firms in various fields concerning trade and industry, such as taxation, tariff, export and import, shipping and arbitration. At the same time, it has actively participated in the life of the society, supporting various social causes and promoting any endeavor for the betterment of the society, and provided succor to the suffering people at times of national disasters, calamities, and emergencies.

The Chamber has made generous donations for philanthropic causes, including educational institutions and hospitals, a notable example of which is the Benevolent and Scholarship Fund it set up to commemorate its completion of 75 years. The objective of the Fund was to make donations to any philanthropic organizations and to those institutions that impart education to the physically disabled or handicapped persons, and also to promote self-employment. The Chamber firmly holds on to this objective to which end it itself has enhanced its CSR activities and also has been constantly encouraging its member firms to expand theirs.

Much as the Chamber takes pride in the role it has played in different areas in the long 110 years of its history, it is confident that it will continue to play its due role in the development of the national economy through times ahead with all the expertise and resources it has at its disposal and live up to its long and glorious tradition of serving the trade and industry of the country.

On this 110th anniversary of the Chamber it calls upon government to further strengthen its present relation with the business community, which is the driver of a country's economic growth. In order to be able to become a middle income country by the turn of the present decade, Bangladesh economy will need to grow at the rate of 8 to 10 percent a year. This will require close cooperation between business and government – the type of cooperation that helped the East Asian countries to achieve double digit growth in the 1970s and the 1980s.

However, the close relation between government and business that spurred East Asia's economic growth in the past century is not prevalent in Bangladesh at the moment. The 2014 survey of the World Economic Forum has identified inadequate infrastructure, corruption and inefficient bureaucracy as the three top factors that haunt entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. Political instability, a lack of access to financing, policy instability, lack of skilled workforce, complex tax regulations, high tax rates, foreign currency regulations, insufficient capacity to innovate, poor public health and restrictive regulations also pose problems for the businesses. We call upon government to address these problems in order to build strong relationship with businesses.

Infrastructure bottleneck is at the forefront of all problems, but in a developing country like ours government simply does not have enough resources to build all the infrastructures the country needs. Infrastructure projects are different from other projects because they are larger and there are no precedents of them being carried out by the private sector. But if the government can create conducive conditions, there is no reason why the private sector will not come to this kind of business. There are instances of successful public-private partnership (PPP) projects in the country like the IDCOL that has installed 3.2 million solar home systems in the country. When the combined total of solar home systems in the rest of the world is less than two million, IDCOL's is definitely a big achievement. This experience can be replicated to other selected sectors.

Development does not mean only building infrastructures but also promoting human dignity. Inequality is growing in our society with the poor people getting poorer. We need to build social infrastructures like schools and hospitals, the benefits of which go largely to the poor. We therefore call upon the government to devote more resources to social sector spending and social protection. Additional resources required for that purpose could be raised by reforming and rationalizing the system of income taxation.

Just as government has its responsibility to help business and industry, the business community, too, should abide by business ethics and rules and regulations pertaining to industry and trade. Some self-criticism in that regard should be in order. Allegations of wrongdoing have been raised against many firms of the country. Though they are not members of this Chamber, we would call upon them to avoid socially unacceptable practices that have inflicted enormous costs on the economy and dented the business community's and therefore the country's image abroad.

MCCI Vision and Mission

VISION

- Be the leading voice serving responsible business

MISSION

- Become the leading chamber for providing research and analysis related to business in Bangladesh
- Attract quality membership, representative of a cross section of business
- Effectively respond to the changing needs of our members
- Enhance our capabilities through collaboration with local and international institutions
- Engage and communicate regularly with our stakeholders
- Recognise best practices that benefit business and society

Chamber Committee For 2014

PRESIDENT
Ms. Rokia Afzal Rahman

VICE-PRESIDENT
Mr. Anis A. Khan

MEMBERS
Mr. Syed Tareque Md. Ali
Mr. M. Anis Ud Dowla
Mr. Tabith M. Awal
Mr. Akhter Matin Chaudhury, FCA

Mr. A. K. M. Rafiqul Islam, FCA
Mr. Md. Saiful Islam
Mr. Habibullah N. Karim
Mr. Adeeb H. Khan, FCA
Mr. Golam Mainuddin
Mr. Kamran T. Rahman
Mr. Mamun Rashid

SECRETARY-GENERAL
Mr. Farooq Ahmed

Former Presidents

Serving the business community for more than 109 years, MCCI was excellently steered by eminent business personalities like Mr. M. M. Isphani, Mr. M. H. Adamjee, Mr. Y. A. Bawany, Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury and many more who are still carrying the flag mast of MCCI. All the names of the former presidents of the Chamber could not be retrieved from the old documents. However, the list of presidents since 1949 was provided below to remember their wonderful contribution towards the society.

Year	Name of Presidents	Company Name of Presidents
1949	Mr. D.P. Fafalios	Ralli Brothers Ltd.
1950	Mr. A.C. Baxter	
1951	Mr. C.E.C. Guthrie	LGN & S.N.G. Ltd.
1952	Mr. A.R. Faridi	
1953	Mr. R.W.N. Ferguson	
1954	Mr. A. Jalil	
1955	Mr. M. M. Isphani	M. M. Isphani Limited
1956	Mr. M. M. Isphani	M. M. Isphani Limited
1957	Mr. A. A. Khalon	The Pakbay Co. Ltd.
1958	Mr. W. R. Longwill James	Finlay & Co. Ltd.
1959	Mr. M. Naser-ud-Deen Khan	Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Co. of Pakistan Ltd.
1960	Mr. M. M. Isphani	M. M. Isphani Limited
1961	Mr. A. A. Khalon	The Pakbay Co. Ltd.
1962	Mr. A. Ahad	Orr, Dignam & Co.
1963	Mr. M. H. Adamjee	Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd.
1964	Mr. M. Ilahi Amin	Jute Baling Co. Ltd.
1965	Mr. Y. A. Bawany	Aesons Limited
1966	Mr. A. A. Khalon	The Pakbay Co. Ltd.
1967	Mr. M. Ilahi Amin	Jute Baling Co. Ltd.
1968	Mr. M. Ilahi Amin	Jute Baling Co. Ltd.
1969	Mr. Rashid Ahmed	Sinclair Murray (Pakistan) Ltd.
1970	Mr. Rashid Ahmed	Sinclair Murray (Pakistan) Ltd.
1971	Mr. A. Qayyum	Pakistan River Steamers Ltd.
1972	Mr. Kamruddin Ahmed	Orr, Dignam & Co.
1973	Mr. Kamruddin Ahmed	Orr, Dignam & Co.
1974	Mr. Kamruddin Ahmed	Orr, Dignam & Co.
1975	Mr. F. K. Ghuznavi	ICI Bangladesh Ltd.
1976	Mr. Rashid Ahmed	Sinclair Murray (Bangladesh) Ltd.
1977	Mr. M. Anis Ud Dowla	Bangladesh Oxygen Ltd.
1978	Mr. M. Anis Ud Dowla	Bangladesh Oxygen Ltd.
1979	Mr. S. H. Kabir	Pfizer Laboratories (BD) Ltd.
1980	Mr. Mushfeq-Us-Saleheen	International Finance and Investment Co. Ltd.
1981	Mr. M. Morshed Khan	Pacific Motors Limited
1982	Mr. M. Morshed Khan	Pacific Motors Limited
1983	Mr. Zeaul Huq	Orioxi Ltd.
1984	Mr. S. H. Kabir	Pfizer Laboratories (BD) Ltd.
1985	Mr. M. R. Siddiqi	SIDKO Limited
1986	Mr. M. R. Siddiqi	SIDKO Limited
1987	Mr. Habibullah Khan	Meenhar Sea Foods Limited
1988	Mr. Habibullah Khan	Meenhar Sea Foods Limited
1989	Mr. Salman F. Rahman	Bangladesh Export Import Co. Ltd.
1990	Mr. Syed Manzur Elahi	Apex Tannery Limited
1991	Mr. Syed Manzur Elahi	Apex Tannery Limited
1992	Mr. M. Morshed Khan	Pacific Motors Limited
1993	Mr. Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
1994	Mr. Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
1995	Mr. M. Anis Ud Dowla	Advanced Chemical Industries
1996	Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury	Square Pharmaceuticals Limited
1997	Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury	Square Pharmaceuticals Limited
1998	Mrs. Laila Rahman Kabir	Kedarpur Tea Company Ltd.
1999	Mr. Mahub Jamil	Singer Bangladesh Limited
2000	Mr. Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
2001	Mr. Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
2002	Mr. Tapan Chowdhury	Square Pharmaceuticals Limited
2003	Mr. Tapan Chowdhury	Square Pharmaceuticals Limited
2004	Mr. Kutubuddin Ahmed	Envoy Garments Limited
2005	Mr. Kutubuddin Ahmed	Envoy Garments Limited
2006	Mr. Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
2007	Mr. Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
2008	Mr. Latifur Rahman	Transcom Limited
2009	Mr. Abdul Hafiz Chowdhury, FCA	Rahman Rahman Huq
2010	Mr. M. Anis Ud Dowla	Advanced Chemical Industries
2011	Maj. Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd)	Agricultural Marketing Co. Ltd.
2012	Maj. Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd)	Agricultural Marketing Co. Ltd.
2013	Ms. Rokia Afzal Rahman	Arlinks Limited

Note: The list of past President from 1904 to 1948 is not available.

Promoting Inclusive Growth

BEING EARNEST

has allowed us to build lucrative business relations for over a century

BEING VERSATILE

has enabled us to explore and embrace growth-catalyzing innovations for over a century

BEING INSIGHTFUL

has allowed us to recognize potential business leaders for over a century

BEING FOCUSED

has helped us in achieving challenging goals for over a century

BEING PERCEPTIVE

has facilitated us to plan for effective business for over a century