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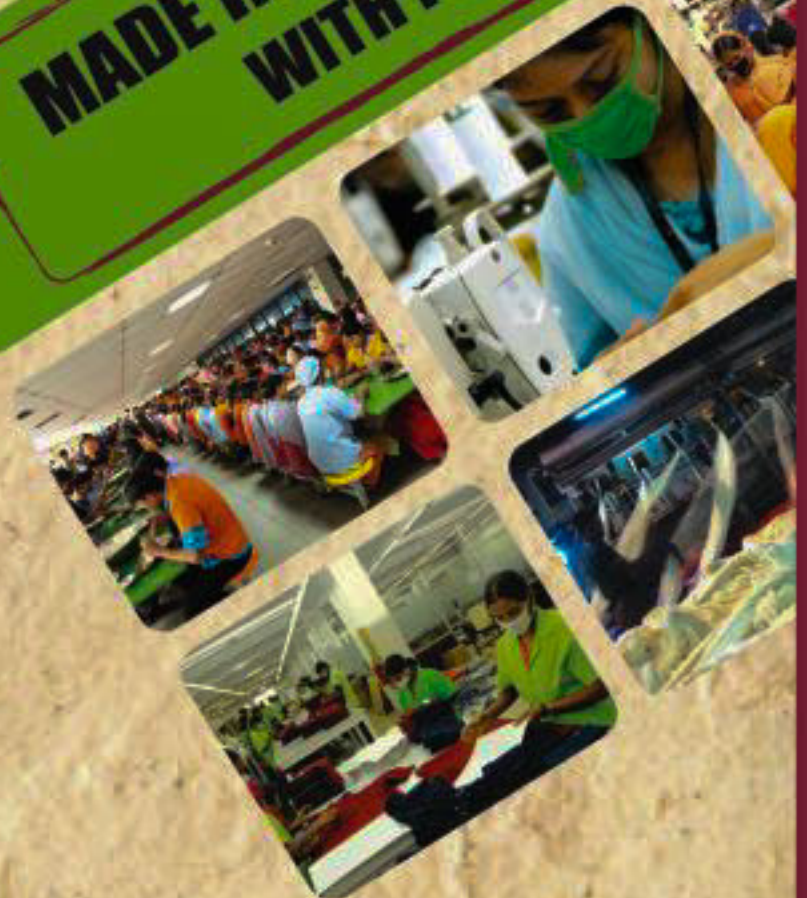
DHAKA APPAREL SUMMIT

In Association with

35 Years Experience

MADE IN BANGLADESH WITH PRIDE

Organized by



BANGLADESH RMG 2021: \$50 Billion on 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh

December 7-9, 2014

Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka


 HONORABLE PRESIDENT
PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

I am delighted to know that Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is going to organize the first-ever Dhaka Apparel Summit 2014 with a theme 'Bangladesh RMG 2021: 50 Billion USD on 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh' in Dhaka on 7-9 December 2014. On the eve of the occasion, I extend my sincere thanks and felicitations to the members of BGMEA, workers, buyers and all sorts of stakeholders from home and abroad.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association has been playing a very significant role in expanding and disseminating Bangladesh garments to global market. I have been informed that Dhaka Apparel Summit is organizing with the objective of opening and furthering dialogue among stakeholders in the RMG industry to frame a sustainable road map on building responsible supply chains in the textiles and garment sector that contribute to its sustainable development and inclusive growth of the economy. It is also heartening to note that the summit will bring together some of the best global investors, brands, policy makers, researchers and journalists to present the true spirit of Bangladesh embodied by millions of its workers and entrepreneurs. I am sure that this magnificent event would foster the expansion of RMG sector as well as our common goal of sustainable development and prosperity of the country.

The year 2021 is very special for all the people of Bangladesh as it will mark the Golden Jubilee of our independence. I believe that the RMG industry of Bangladesh will herald our journey toward achieving the middle-income country status by 2021 which is our Vision set by our Government. We are all working together for building a prosperous Bangladesh which will turn the country into 'Golden Bengal' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

I wish the Dhaka Apparel Summit 2014 a grand success.

Khoda Hafez. May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Md. Abdul Hamid

DHAKA APPAREL SUMMIT 2014

Bangladesh readymade garments & textiles industry, the second largest readymade garment exporter in the world, is honored to share the first ever vision to reach US\$50 billion on 50th anniversary of Bangladesh. This all encompassing vision aims to bring all garment manufacturing and supporting entities under one roof with a common goal: the goal to fully realize the growth potential of the industry through sustainable development and dedicated collaboration of all concerned stakeholders.

This vision to reach US\$50 by the year 2021 is based on an in-depth analysis of the industry's growth potential by the world's leading strategy consulting firm McKinsey & Co. In April of 2012 it published "Bangladesh's Ready Made Garments Landscape: The Challenge of Growth". McKinsey made a forecast that Bangladesh RMG could reach \$30bn by 2015 and \$50bn by 2021 and noted "While China is starting to lose its attractiveness in this realm, the sourcing caravan is moving on to the next hot spot. With Bangladesh having developed a strong position amongst European and US buyers, many companies are already eager to evaluate the future potential".

In the aftermath of Rana Plaza, in the latest report of Apparel CPO Survey 2013, McKinsey reiterated that the RMG sector of Bangladesh still held a competitive position. In addition, several other reports showcased certain facts that indicated that the sector was not only trying hard to maintain the required global standards, but in fact, in some cases, it was far exceeding the standards set by the competing countries.

To lay the foundation to the vision, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is jointly organizing a 3-day event "Bangladesh RMG 2021 - 50 Billion USD in 50 Years" with Alliance, American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF) during 7 to 9 December 2014 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka.

The event is proposed to chalk out a sustainable road map for the ready-made garment industry to reach USD50 Billion exports by 2021 when Bangladesh would be celebrating her 50th Anniversary. This unique engagement will inspire the industry and its valued stakeholders to put forward their best effort in realizing the vision and take the sector forward. The summit will feature a number of panel sessions over two days participated by representatives of governments of home and partner countries, international organizations, employers, private sectors, workers' representatives, civil society organizations, brand representatives and buyers, academics and media.

The aim of these sessions is to lay the foundation for the road map to the Bangladesh RMG 2021 vision. Addressing the challenges, identifying the scopes, and amassing the desired response from concerned stakeholders are the objectives of these sessions. The roadmap to the vision can only be drawn with the collaborative effort of the participants.

In addition to the sessions the summit will also showcase GORBO, The grand finale of the voice talent hunt for the RMG workers; 2nd Social and Environmental Excellence (SEE) Award; International Trade Expo for Building and Fire Safety; and launching of Center of Excellence for Bangladesh Apparel Industry (CEBA).

The Apparel Summit is presented by HSBC, in association with IFIC Bank and with other valued sponsors.


 HONORABLE PRIME MINISTER
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

I am happy to know that BGMEA is going to organize an event named "Dhaka Apparel Summit" in Dhaka on 7-9 December 2014.

The readymade garment sector has been playing a unique role in the overall socio-economic development of Bangladesh. Currently, Bangladesh is the 2nd largest RMG exporter of the world. It has been possible owing to the sincere efforts of the workers, entrepreneurs, government bodies and other stakeholders.

Growth of RMG sector is very critical for our long term vision of graduating Bangladesh to a middle income country by 2021. At this juncture, a more focused and strategic direction is required to ensure sustainable development of our country.

Two tragic workplace incidents have shocked us that cost more than a thousand lives of workers. Our government has taken the issue of workplace safety very seriously and is committed to making the industry a safe place for the workers. We made zero import duty on the fire safety equipments and strengthened the capacity of the concerned ministries. We have also increased the minimum wage for apparel workers to improve their living standard.

I hope this event would help achieve our common goal of sustainable economic growth, creating employment, alleviating poverty, women empowerment etc.

We all are working for building a prosperous Golden Bangladesh, as dreamt by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I believe by conquering all the challenges, we will be able to make our vision a reality.

I wish the event "Dhaka Apparel Summit" a grand success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina



Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) is holding an international event "Dhaka Apparel Summit" between 7 to 9 December, 2014 at BICC, Dhaka. Bangladesh Garment industry has done well in establishing international reputation in the global market. In a short period of 30 years, Bangladesh has become the second largest exporter of garments.

Meanwhile, the country has become a centre of textile industry and the potential for garments is still very substantial. Presently 81 percent of export income of the country comes from garments. In the next four years we expect huge growth in this sector so that earnings can double in five years. While this will continue to grow it is necessary for the economy to diversify into production of other goods and services for export.

Dhaka Apparel Summit 2014 will bring international stakeholders in the industry as well as political leaders and policy makers of this industry. Further, there will be a Jamboree of retailers, trade experts, journalists and others interested in the generic textile sector. It is expected that this gathering will also deliberate on the challenges and opportunities of garment industry. Thus the economy will be greatly assisted in developing a road map for this very important exporting industry.

I congratulate BGMEA for organizing this gala event and wish Dhaka Apparel Summit 2014 a great success.

 Honourable Abul Maal A. Muhith, MP
Minister, Ministry of Finance
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh


I am happy to know that Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is going to organize "Dhaka Apparel Summit" at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka on 7-9 December, 2014. It is really a praiseworthy venture and I appreciate the organizers for their arduous efforts to hold this important event in the capital city.

Apparel industry in Bangladesh has made remarkable contribution to the country's economic growth and social progress. RMG sector is the largest industrial sector of our export earning. Its contribution in terms of job creation, as well as social upliftment through empowerment of women is beyond question. With over 4.4 million jobs and over 81% of export earnings from the RMG sector, much of the nation's fortune depends on this industry.

I believe that the "Dhaka Apparel Summit" will be an effective platform for all stakeholders, including global minds, experts, policymakers, brands and suppliers, under the one roof where they would share their thoughts and expertise. It is expected that this summit will bring the same opportunity to develop new business opportunities for the garment, fabrics, accessories and related business entrepreneurs.

It will definitely create new scopes of cooperation among the participants for smooth and sustainable technology transfer in the field of RMG promotion. I am sure that, with the support of all, we will be able to draw up an effective road map to reach USD 50 billion RMG exports by 2021 when Bangladesh would celebrate its 50th founding anniversary.

I wish the summit a grand success.

 Honourable Amir Hossain Amu, M.P
Minister, Ministry of Industries
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh


I am very happy to learn that Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is holding a big international event titled "Dhaka Apparel Summit", the first ever of its kind in Bangladesh, during 7-9 December, 2014.

As I understand, it is a laudable visionary initiative towards realizing "Vision-2021" being pursued by the present Government under the dynamic leadership of Honble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The event focuses on how to tap the huge potential of our RMG industry aiming to achieve an export target of 50 billion US dollars by the year 2021 when we will proudly celebrate the glorious 50th anniversary of our independence.

The present Awami League-led Government envisions to lift Bangladesh to middle-income country status by 2021. We are putting in vigorous efforts in various sectors to make this vision come true. Undoubtedly, we look at the RMG sector as a key driving force of our economic growth since this sector accounts for 81% of total export income and employs 4.4 million people directly and another 20 million indirectly.

Building a safe and sustainable RMG industry is our goal. The present Government is providing and will continue to provide all necessary support to achieve this goal. I believe the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders at home and abroad are of immense significance in reaching the goal.

I like to express my deep appreciation for the efforts of BGMEA and other associated organizations in planning and implementing this important event.

I wish "Dhaka Apparel Summit" a great success.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

 Honourable Tofail Ahmed, MP
Minister, Ministry of Commerce,
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh


I am delighted to learn that Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) along with Alliance for Bangladesh Workers Safety Inc., German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) and Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF) will organize Dhaka Apparel Summit 2014 on December 7-9, 2014 with the theme "Bangladesh RMG 2021: 50 Billion US\$ on the 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh". I welcome their endeavour in highlighting and updating the world at large on Bangladesh RMG sector - both its achievements and targets.

As you are aware RMG sector in Bangladesh started its journey in late 70s with exports of only a few thousand dollars. Over the years, it has thrived and already reached export figure of around US\$ 25 billion in 2013-2014. Our highest export earner, RMG sector, has been playing a significant role in increasing per capita income, reducing poverty, empowering women and bringing positive social changes. Our Government is providing full support and various incentives in strengthening this sector. I believe the vision of US\$ 50 billion RMG export by 2021 will further boost the RMG sector which in turn would help the country to attain middle income status by 2021 as envisaged by the Honble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Our RMG sector has connected Bangladesh with the world economy. Our major export markets are in Europe and North America. We source our import essentials mostly from Asia. Therefore it would be in our own interest to maintain and further enhance a cooperative relationship with our economic partners. Foreign policy of the Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is directed to this end. My ministry and our missions abroad are actively engaged in economic diplomacy. We are making all out efforts to build a positive image of the country and RMG sector will continue to receive our best cooperation in "Branding Bangladesh".

I wish the event all success.

Joi Bangla! Joi Bangabandhu!

 Honourable Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP
Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh


I am pleased to learn that Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is going to organize the "Dhaka Apparel Summit" at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka on 7-9 December 2014. It is also heartening to know that other important programs namely International Trade Expo for Building and Fire Safety, Social & Environmental Excellence (SEE) Award and 'Gorbo', a voice talent program for RMG workers will be held beside the summit at the same venue.

Readymade garment (RMG) industry is the lifeline of Bangladesh's economy. Now the industry is Bangladesh's biggest export earner which is 81.2 percent of the total export earnings of our country. Braving all limitations and obstacles Bangladesh has become the second largest exporter of garment products in the world within three decades. This has been possible mainly because of our resilient entrepreneurs and most importantly our vibrant workforce.

We consider the workforce the biggest asset of RMG industry. So, the Awami League-led government under the prudent leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has increased the minimum wages of the RMG workers about 219% in last four and half years. It has also amended the labour laws of the country in July, 2013 and made it more favorable towards workers' rights to association and collecting bargaining.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in coordination with Bangladesh Government launched Better Work Program in Bangladesh. So, all our efforts are centered around improving the livelihood and living of our labour force. Because we believe, the workers are our strength to achieve the goals that we envisioned.

I hope "Dhaka Apparel Summit" will help to take our RMG industry forward as it will bring all stakeholders, including global minds, experts, policymakers, brands and suppliers, under one roof where they would share their thoughts and expertise.

I wish the event a great success.

 Honourable Md. Mujibul Haque, MP
State Minister, Ministry of Labor and Employment
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh


We welcome you to first ever Dhaka Apparel Summit scheduled to be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Dhaka, on 7-9 December 2014.

Bangladesh where readymade garment industry emerged as a small non-traditional sector of export is now the second largest apparel exporting country in the world. The sector has witnessed phenomenal growth over the last three decades. A more glittering future is waiting for our RMG; at least facts and figures indicate so. Riding on our 35-year experience in the sector, entrepreneurial skills, vibrant workforce, and government policy support, the industry now envisages taking Bangladesh's export earnings from RMG industry to USD 50 billion by 2021 when the country will celebrate her 50th anniversary of independence. But challenges are there. Here comes the necessity of a clear road map to bridge the gap between challenges and opportunities.

Framing a sustainable road map entails serious discussions and dialogue among all stakeholders in the sector. The Dhaka Apparel Summit will open such discussion which will be instrumental in drawing out a sustainable road map to reach \$50 billion RMG exports by 2021. It is hoped that useful guidelines for building a sustainable and responsible supply chain in the industry will also stem from the discussion among global minds, experts, brands and policymakers.

I do believe that with our best and sincerest efforts along with the support of all stakeholders we will be able to realize our vision -- \$50 billion of RMG exports on the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh.

 Md. Atiqul Islam
President
Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA)


Since its inception, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has been working for the development of readymade garment industry which is a key driving force for the economy of Bangladesh. As part of its endeavour to promote the sector, BGMEA is going to organize the Dhaka Apparel Summit, first of this kind in the country, at Bangabandhu International Conference Center from 7-9 December 2014.

The summit bears special significance to our readymade garment industry since it is arranged at a time when the sector is at crossroads -- many challenges on one side and immense potentials for incredible development on the other side. The industry which emerged as a small non-traditional sector of export in early 1980s has gradually become the mightiest pillar of our economy. To take the sector higher and make it development sustainable, we need a clear road map. We also need a clear vision to move forward. Based on the global apparel market scenario and relying on our ability and capacity, we have set a vision of taking our export earnings from RMG to \$50 billion by 2021 when we will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh.

The Apparel Summit will feature a number of sessions where global minds, academics, professionals, policymakers, brands, entrepreneurs, journalists etc. will share their knowledge and thoughts on problems and prospects of the RMG industry.

I hope the summit will be instrumental in outlining the ways forward to realize our vision of \$50 billion RMG exports by 2021.

 Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury
First Vice President
Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA)


It is our pleasure to welcome you all to the Dhaka Apparel Summit scheduled to be held on December 7-9 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), Dhaka.

The readymade garment (RMG) industry of Bangladesh has come a long way. Now Bangladesh is the second largest apparel exporting country in the world. A more glittering future is waiting for the readymade garment industry of Bangladesh as hinted by facts and international surveys. A McKinsey survey has termed Bangladesh the next hot spot in apparel sourcing, provided all the challenges facing by the industry are dealt with. But we need a sustainable road map to realize the potential for further growth of our RMG industry.

The Dhaka Apparel Summit will bring all stakeholders, including global minds, experts, policymakers, brands and suppliers, under the one roof where they would share their thoughts and expertise on the sector. I hope the summit will be instrumental in drawing up a clear road map to achieve our RMG export target of \$50 billion by 2021 when Bangladesh will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of her Independence.

I wish the Dhaka Apparel Summit all the success.

 S. M. Mannan (Kochi)
Second Vice President
Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA)