

DENMARK CONSTITUTION DAY



AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



Hanne Fugl Eskjær

the Bangladesh Government's own 7th Five Year Plan and the global Sustainable Development Goals. It has a strong focus on inclusive, pro-poor and sustainable growth. Empowerment of the poor, the vulnerable and the women cuts across all interventions. The country programme has three broad thematic areas and they are -Agricultural Growth and Employment, Climate Resilience and Sustainable Energy and Governance and Rights. These thematic areas are underpinned by 12 specific projects with a broad variety of partners including government departments and divisions, NGOs and UN organisations.

The Danish government is also working directly with the Bangladeshi government in a Strategic Sector Cooperation project implemented through the Labour ministries of our two nations. The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the Bangladeshi inspection authorities, in particular the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments. This will result in a more professional authority which will benefit the workers and their safety as well as support the employers. Denmark has posted a Growth Counsellor at the embassy in

Dhaka with a view to facilitating project and the cooperation will continue for three years.

Our partnership continues to evolve with the new challenges and opportunities that emerge - especially within the energy sector. The embassy is supporting several projects within this sector including developing biogas plants for the poultry sector in a partnership with IFC and promoting energy efficiency in the industry through the 3E - Energy Efficiency Engagement implemented by The Nordic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bangladesh (NCCI) - which is described in the article as "Denmark and Bangladesh - a strong partnership".

Some nine years ago Denmark closed its visa section in Bangladesh and handed over visa handling to the Swedish Embassy. However, it was decided that Denmark should be present amongst visa issuing Missions in Dhaka again, and on 15 August 2015 the Embassy's Visa Section was re-opened, sharing its offices with our Swedish visa colleagues. Almost simultaneously the three Nordic Embassies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden moved to the joint Nordic Embassy chancery in Dhaka. Co-location of Nordic Embassies has been in the making for many years and is still a priority for Nordic cooperation. Co-location not only contributes to branding of the Nordic countries and their common values, but also leads cost savings.

I am convinced that the warm relations between Denmark and Bangladesh will become even stronger over the coming years. Together we have already come a long way, and we still have many things to learn from each other.

If you want to learn more about Denmark's activities in Bangladesh, please join nearly quarter of a million friends on our Facebook site www.facebook.com/AmbDhaka. We would be happy to hear your thoughts and comments on our work in Bangladesh.

Denmark and Bangladesh - a strong partnership

DENMARK was among the first countries to officially recognise Bangladesh following Independence in 1971. Bangladesh was then one of the poorest nations in the world and on the verge of humanitarian disaster. Today, a little more than 40 years later, Bangladesh has emerged as a country that enjoys impressive economic growth and remarkable social progress. Bangladesh has been one of the main recipients of Danish development assistance since the Independence. Together Denmark and Bangladesh have come a long way over those years, moving from a more traditional donor-recipient relationship to a strong partnership based on mutual interests. Poverty reduction and promotion of human rights and democracy have always been - and will remain - the overriding principles of our long-standing development cooperation.

The partnership between Denmark and Bangladesh has been expanded over the years to also include a strong focus on commercial cooperation. Denmark has for many years been active in promoting growth and development in Bangladesh through trade and business. Denmark has a number of business instruments at hand that brings together Bangladeshi and Danish private companies. More than 100 different partnerships have been established, creating jobs and prosperity in Bangladesh through transfer of knowledge and technology from Danish to local companies. Denmark is also putting more and more emphasis on integrating private sector into development programmes, using the know-how of Danish companies to address key challenges in Bangladesh in areas such as, renewable energy

and water resource management.

The span of Denmark's cooperation with Bangladesh is extensive, ranging from innovative business partnerships that bring new solutions in the private sector to farmer field schools that benefit millions of people in rural Bangladesh.

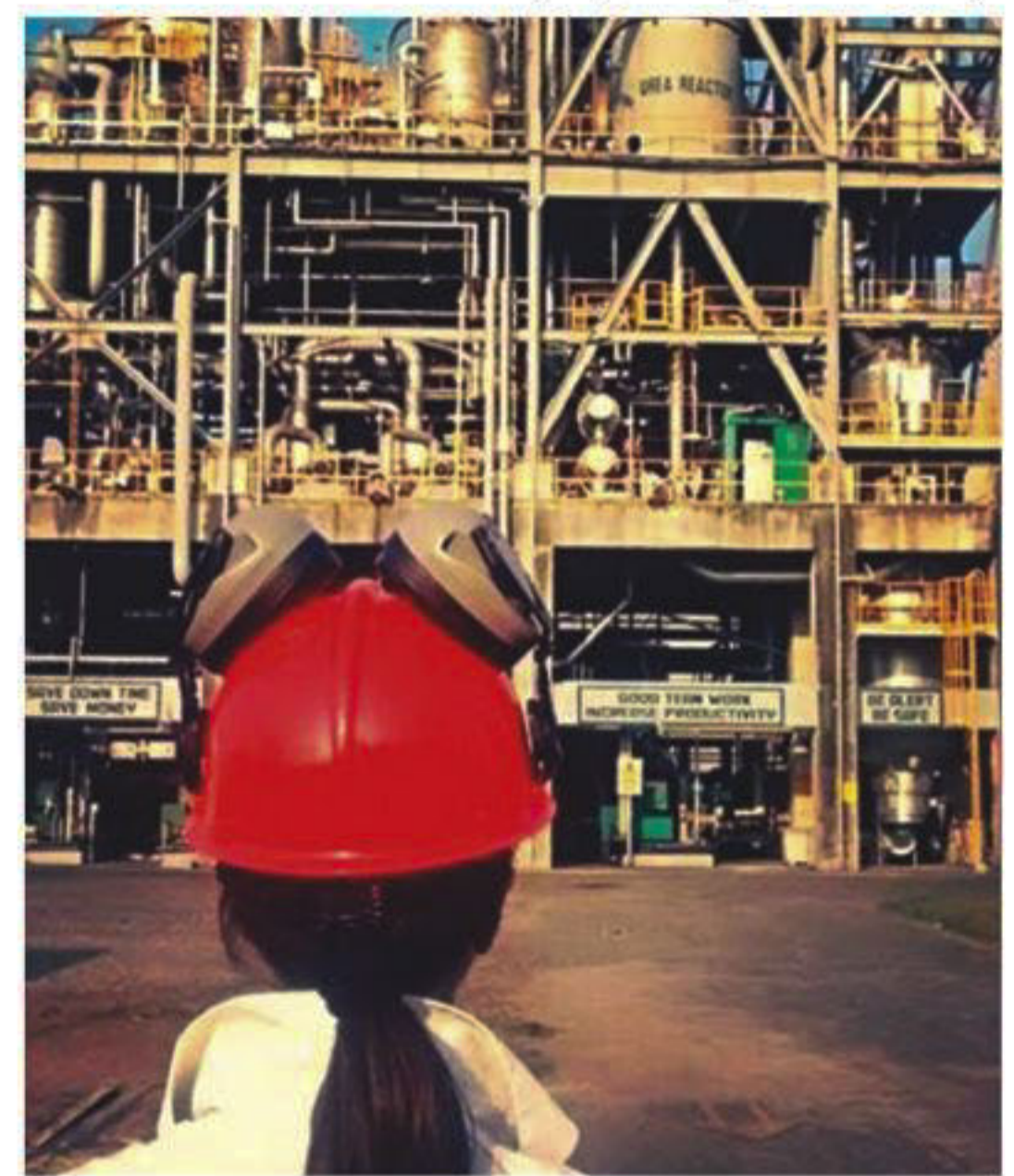
3E -Energy efficiency enables productivity and growth
Danida is supporting the 3E Energy Efficiency project implemented by The Nordic Chamber of

Commerce and Industry in Bangladesh (NCCI). This is a unique collaboration with a business chamber to promote energy efficient practices and technology in Bangladeshi industries. To achieve that goal, an Energy Efficiency Secretariat has been established in NCCI. The secretariat offers advisory services to Bangladeshi industries on how energy efficiency makes sense in terms of profitability and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Bangladesh has impressive high growth rates in several industries, including key sectors such as, Ready Made Garments,

Shipbuilding and Pharmaceuticals. However, unstable energy supply has led these and other sectors to rely heavily on captive power in the form of gas and diesel powered generators. This approach is unsustainable as it increases the cost of production, puts pressure on natural resources and results in higher greenhouse gas emissions.

The 3E Secretariat has performed 34 out of 50 walkthrough energy audits in energy-intensive sectors such as: RMC, textiles, ceramics, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing sectors.



KAFCO - a Danish joint venture and the most energy efficient fertilizer factory in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 9

ArlaFoodsBangladesh



CELEBRATING THE 167TH CONSTITUTION DAY OF DENMARK

May this great nation be a source of inspiration for the world to see.

