



I am delighted to learn that Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is holding the second Dhaka Apparel Summit in Dhaka on 25 February 2017.

We all know that human resource is the best asset we have in Bangladesh. We have to turn our vibrant young population into asset to achieve the desired socio-economic development of the country. The labour-intensive RMG industry has been maintaining a steady growth and the pace is expected to continue. Bangladesh's RMG industry has huge opportunities to make its foothold stronger in the global market. And of course we have some solid grounds for optimism. What we need is the concerted efforts to realize the untapped potentials of the industry. The Dhaka Summit will be a great platform for stakeholders from home and abroad to discuss different important issues, including skills and employability, to tap potentials of our RMG industry. I hope that the event will play a significant role in the sustainable development of our RMG industry.

I wish the 2nd Dhaka Apparel Summit a grand success.

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



I am happy to know that Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) is going to organize the 2nd 'Dhaka Apparel Summit' with a theme 'Together for a Better Tomorrow' in Dhaka on 25 February 2017. Such an event will play a very crucial role in bringing together all relevant stakeholders including manufacturers, buyers, sellers, policy makers, and global experts under an umbrella and help them to realize the huge potential of RMG industry of Bangladesh.

In order to ensure sustainable development of the RMG industry in Bangladesh, all the stakeholders in the value chain should act together in a more concerned manner so that we can keep the pace of growth going and add value to the economy. The apparel industry is on the verge of tremendous opportunities in the world market caused by the changing global sourcing pattern. I believe that proper attention and planning of this sector can conquer all the challenges and lead us to a golden era.

Under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina is sincere to overcome the challenges and employ potentials of this industry and committed to extend full support for its sustainable development like we have been doing. I believe the event will be successful on its venture to bring all stakeholders of home and abroad under the same roof and set the right path to achieve the precisely titled vision. I wish the Dhaka Apparel Summit a grand success.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.  
May Bangladesh Live forever.

**Mirza Azam, MP**  
State Minister, Ministry of Textiles & Jute  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the second edition of the Dhaka Apparel Summit 2017. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is organizing the mega event at the Pan Pacific Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka on 25 February 2017 with a theme "Together for a Better Tomorrow".

The underlying purpose of the event is to serve as a platform to establish greater interaction and collaboration amongst stakeholders from home and abroad, with a common goal of ensuring sustainable growth within the Bangladesh RMG industry.

The second edition of the Summit is taking place at a time when our ready-made garment (RMG) industry, following a massive transformation in workplace safety, is entering a new era which promises a brighter future for the sector. We now need to find the answer to the question: How do we envisage the future possibilities of our industry given the backdrop of challenges and opportunities that we have? We believe that the suggestions that will be made by our panel of experts and industry professionals at the 2nd Dhaka Apparel Summit will provide illuminated guidelines for setting the priorities towards achieving a sustainable RMG industry. Your participation in the Summit will be a true inspiration for us to take our RMG industry forward.

**Md. Siddiqur Rahman**  
President  
Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA)



The Dhaka Apparel Summit has been specifically organised to aid in the development of the textile and apparel industry in Bangladesh, and is formulated to bring together some of the world's leading experts in their field to share their experiences and thoughts and to discuss issues pertaining to the RMG industry and ways in which the business can realise sustainable growth well into the 21st Century.



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Since the tragic collapse of Rana Plaza in 2013, the Bangladesh ready-made garment sector has undergone a transformation.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), with the support of Canada, the Netherlands and United Kingdom has worked closely with the Government of Bangladesh, employers' and workers' organizations to help improve working conditions in the sector.

As a result of these excellent efforts and as well as those of the Accord and Alliance most of the exporting RMG factories have been inspected for structural, fire and electrical safety while remediation is well underway. National capacities have been strengthened, a process which will continue with the planned establishment of a Remediation Coordination Cell. This entity will drive forward the process while further institutionalizing regulatory capacity relating to building safety. The skills, accountability and credibility of the Labour Inspectorate has greatly increased. A culture of Occupational Safety and Health in the garment sector is also being built.

While good progress has been made, the job is not finished. We cannot allow the momentum to fade, and we should continue our efforts until all work has been completed. For Bangladesh to sustain a successful and growing RMG sector, she has a vested interest in ensuring not only that the sector is safe, but also that labour rights are fully protected and fulfilled. Workers and their representatives should be active partners in this growth. There needs to be an equitable distribution of the benefits derived from the growing industry. Mutual respect and trust between workers and employers organizations as well as effective social dialogue are a prerequisite for sustaining these gains. Workers should have the full freedom to exercise their rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining should be well recognised and established.

Our common interest is to ensure that the RMG sector is successful, sustainable and continues to be a locomotive for development while also providing work that is safe, productive, decent and respectful to the rights of workers. Doing so will make a valuable contribution to reaching the ambitious target of boosting RMG exports to US\$50 billion and helping Bangladesh to achieve its goal of becoming a middle income status nation.

Together, we have done much in just a few short years, but still have a long way to travel. The ILO is committed to its long-term partnership and looks forward to continuing our work in the future building on what we have already achieved so far.

May I congratulate the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association on organising the 2nd Dhaka Apparel Summit 2017. It is a showcase of all that is best and I wish the event every success.

**Tomoko Nishimoto**  
Assistant Director  
General and Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific  
International Labour Organization (ILO)



It is an immense pleasure to be informed that 2nd Dhaka Apparel Summit 2017 is going to be organized by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA). I would like to express my profound bliss to state that there can be few greater honours than participating in Dhaka Apparel Summit 2017. I am personally overwhelmed that United Commercial Bank Limited is the Title Sponsor of the event. I highly appreciate this sort of arrangements which will help to create a sustainable apparel policy towards prosperity.

Being the Chairman of United Commercial Bank Limited, I consider responding towards economic & social commitments as an integral part of our organization. Same way, we consider getting attached with BGMEA will facilitate the apparel industry for policy advocacy, ensuring workers' rights and social compliance at factories.

I would like to assure you all that in coming days our support and mutual bonding would remain same with Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA). You will get us always by your side in any noble feat like this.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody especially the President, BGMEA for such an exciting event - 2nd Dhaka Apparel Summit 2017.

I wish splendid success in this grand event.

**MA Sabur**  
Chairman  
United Commercial Bank Limited



## SESSIONS

**25TH FEB. 2017 | START AT 2.00PM**

The Grand Ballroom - Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel - Dhaka

SESSION 1 : 2.00PM-3.30PM Business Policy & Environment:  
Towards a Better Bangladesh.

SESSION 2 : 3.45PM-5.15PM Collaborative and Responsible Sourcing  
for Sustainable Growth.

SESSION 3 : 5.30PM-7.00PM Bangladesh Apparel Industry:  
Transformation and the Road Ahead.

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