



# The Asia-Pacific Conference on Financing inclusive and Sustainable Development

10-12 December 2019  
InterContinental Hotel Dhaka, Bangladesh



**PRESIDENT**  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
BANGABHARAN, DHAKA

25 Agrahayan 1426  
10 December 2019

### Message

I am pleased to know that International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh is organizing 'The Asia-Pacific Conference on Financing inclusive and Sustainable Development' in Dhaka on 10-12 December 2019. The focus of the conference is Exploring a New Financial Landscape for Asia and the Pacific.

The present government under able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has pulled Bangladesh from low income to a middle income country and has embarked upon a remarkable journey towards development and prosperity. The country has turned into one of the fastest growing economies of the Asia-Pacific region. Our economic challenges of transformation from least developed to developing country need to be kept in mind and initiatives should be taken to make this transformation sustainable and public oriented. ICC Bangladesh can play a catalytic role in achieving development goals by generating employment, endorsing innovative ideas and pushing forward the development pace of the country steering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda by 2030.

Challenges and uncertainties of global economy are best felt in the business world. ICC Bangladesh has invited the best set of policy makers, experts, business professionals to address this during the three day Conference in Dhaka. I am sure the Conference would be a very useful platform that will offer the best policy guidelines and pragmatic recommendations in achieving SDGs in the Asia-Pacific Region.

I am happy to know that International Chamber of Commerce, The world business organization is observing its worldwide 'Centenary Celebration' in 2019. I also congratulate ICC Bangladesh on its completion of 25 years of service to the country and the business community. I wish the Asia Pacific Conference a grand success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

*Md. Abdul Hamid*  
Md. Abdul Hamid  
President  
People's Republic of Bangladesh



**PRIME MINISTER**  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

25 Agrahayan 1426  
10 December 2019

### Message

I am happy to know that International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)-Bangladesh is organizing 'The Asia-Pacific Conference on Financing inclusive and Sustainable Development' in Dhaka on 10-12 December 2019 in order to celebrate ICC's Global Centenary and Silver Jubilee of ICC Bangladesh. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to both ICC Global and its Bangladesh chapter on this occasion.

The theme of this year's conference 'Exploring a New Financial Landscape for Asia and the Pacific', I think, is a time-befitting one. ICC-Bangladesh has organized the conference in association with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), The London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF) with the support of the Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh.

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.

We are committed along with the world leaders to achieving sustainable development in economic, social, and environmental dimensions in a balanced and integrated manner. Meaningful partnership and cooperation are equally essential, both at the local and global level for attaining SDGs. Exchange of ideas would enhance our understanding of the development journey and it will also assist us in replicating the best practices with our own context. I am confident that the conference will offer proper policy recommendations that can be tailored to country specific conditions in achieving SDGs in the Asia Pacific Region. I am sure that together we can bring the benefits of the SDGs to most marginalized people often at the bottom of the society.

I wish every initiative of the conference a grand success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

*Sheikh Hasina MP*  
Sheikh Hasina MP  
Prime Minister  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

## Financing for inclusive and Sustainable Development

In 1919, in the aftermath of World War 1, a group of business leaders from Belgium, Italy, France, the UK and the USA, met in Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA and established the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). They identified themselves as 'Merchants of Peace' and adopted the motto 'world peace through world trade.' The following year, under the aegis of the French statesman and entrepreneur Etienne Clementel, ICC established its headquarter in Paris, where it has remained ever since.

ICC with members in more than 100 countries, represents 45 million companies and more than 1 billion workers worldwide. In December 2016, ICC, the only private sector non-sovereign organization was given the United Nations Permanent Observer Status by the General Assembly. The new role for ICC means that business will, for the first time, have direct voice in the UN system.

Bangladesh National Committee of ICC, established in 1994, is comprised of major Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Business Associations, Stock Exchange, Banks, Non-banking Financial Institutions, Insurance Companies, Trans-national companies, Law Firms and large Corporate Houses having significant interest in international trade.

The Asia-Pacific Conference on Inclusive and Sustainable Development 2019, the year that marks the glorious centenary celebration of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Silver Jubilee celebration of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh. The conference will focus on Exploring A New Financial Landscape for Asia and Pacific.

The main objectives of the Conference will be to discuss on how to scale up investment and international development cooperation and adequately finance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The Conference will discuss the following topics:

-New and innovative policy and regulatory options to enhance domestic and external resources to finance SDG project; Financing infrastructure development in a context of efficient governance, breakneck urbanization and public-private partnerships; Private financing enhancement through developing robust business models with environmental, social and economic impact assessment; Awareness raising on climate finance for climate change mitigation and adaptation; Capital market development to close financing gaps through sovereign/corporate green/



institutions in both developed and emerging markets, and on-going economic crises in some countries underscore weaknesses of the globalization process.

Over the last three decades the world has made significant strides in reducing poverty, more than one billion people have lifted themselves out of extreme poverty. Yet the income share of the poorer half of humanity has barely shifted over this period, despite global economic output more than tripling since 1990. Inequalities undermine economic progress, which in turn exacerbates the social divides that inequalities create.

Inequalities driven by income, geography, gender, age, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, class and religion determining access, opportunities and outcomes continue to persist, within and among countries. In some parts of the world, these divides are becoming more pronounced. Meanwhile, gaps in newer areas, such as access to online and mobile technologies, are emerging.



### The global economic context and its implications for Sustainable Development

Global growth remains steady, but is projected to have now peaked, with economic activity expected to continue expanding at about 3 per cent per year. Global growth is projected to remain uneven across regions and countries. There are some good news: investment has gained strength in some countries and regions, particularly in East and South Asia, which also have large populations of poor people; inequality within many developing countries is declining; and prices on carbon markets are slowly recovering due to policy changes.

There is also growing interest in sustainable and impact investing. Yet, financial markets are volatile, the trade system is in crisis, wage shares are declining which is linked to economic concentration increasing, and risks of debt distress have increased. Carbon emissions have also begun to rise again. At this juncture, Member States of the United Nations will not be able to meet the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with many being left behind.

### Integrated national financing frameworks for sustainable development

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are comprehensive, complex and interrelated.

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blue bonds, infrastructure funds and blended finance instruments; Financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprise; Supply chain financing to enable LDCs participation in international trade and investment; Financing schemes to spur the development on science, technology and innovation; Proper policy and regulatory approach for Fintech evolution to protect consumers and avoid financial stability risk and Scaling up effort for international development cooperation through official development assistance (ODA) and south-south cooperation.

### Introduction:

The global economy has suffered several costly financial crises over the last three decades. Plunging assets, major bouts of exchange, market volatility and crisis in emerging markets and collapse of several major financial



**MINISTER**  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

### Message

I am very happy to learn that the Bangladesh National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - The world business organization, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and The London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF), UK are going to organize The Asia Pacific Conference on Financing inclusive and Sustainable Development under the patronage of the Ministry of Finance, in Dhaka on 10-12 December 2019. My heartiest Congratulation to International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) for its 'Centenary Celebration' globally and 'Silver Jubilee Celebration' of ICC Bangladesh.

In 2015 world leaders agreed upon a set of global goals for sustainable development. By committing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the member states of the United Nations have agreed to an agenda which is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. Eradicating poverty in all its forms, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an essential requirement for sustainable development.

The major challenge to achieve the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is mobilizing sufficient financing. Although interests in inclusive and sustainable financing are growing from both public and private sectors, the most needed investment for SDGs related projects remain underfunded. Under this background, the United Nations has sounded the alarm that unless we revamped both national and international financial systems to be in line with inclusive and sustainable development, we will fail to accomplish the SDGs fully.

I am hopeful that the Conference which is a public-private collaboration of the Asia-Pacific Region, will be able to come up with a 'Road Map' for the partners to create policies that are consistent and gives a direction to the countries to realize their roles and responsibilities on financing of inclusive and sustainable development so that no one is left behind.

I wish the Conference all success.

*A H M Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP*  
A H M Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP  
Finance Minister  
Ministry of Finance  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



**MINISTER**  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

### Message

I am pleased to learn that International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Bangladesh, is going to organize The Asia-Pacific Conference on Financing inclusive and Sustainable Development in Dhaka on 10-12 December 2019. The event simultaneously marks the centenary celebration of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and silver jubilee of its Bangladesh chapter.

The greatest Bengalee of all time Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman struggled throughout his life for establishing a poverty-free, hunger-free 'Sonar Bangla'. Following his footprint, his able daughter Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been successfully steering the country on the 'Pathway to Prosperity'. Under her visionary leadership, 'Economic Diplomacy' has been identified as the overarching goal of Bangladesh's foreign relations. Due to her pro-people policy interventions, we attained the key Millennium Development Goals way before the deadline and have been pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the same vigour.

Bangladesh is on the right track to graduate into a developing country by the year 2021 and a developed country by 2041. Our annual GDP growth rate has increased from 4.5 percent in 2006 to 8.13% last year. Below poverty level decreased almost half with a reduction from 42 percent in 2006 to 21.3 in 2018. We have elevated ourselves from the status of an LDC to that of a lower middle-income country.

The investment regime in Bangladesh is one of most friendly among the competing nations. Thanks to the Government's revolutionary initiatives, the power sector capacity has been enhanced remarkably over the last one decade; the percentage of people having access to electricity has gone up to 94% in 2019 from 47% in 2010. The Payra deep-sea port started basic operation in August 2016. The country's road infrastructure has also been broadened and modernized in the last one decade. The Dhaka metro rail project is expected to kick off from next year. The government mulls to set up one of the most modern large-scale international airport for which site has already been designated.

Bangladesh has the advantage of youth bulge. The fresh university graduates are IT literate, proficient in English and fast learners. The IT sector has been enjoying the advantage of a thrust sector for a long period of time. Bangladesh has all the prospects to emerge as an IT hub in the region. We seek investment in the Special Economic Zones and hi-tech parks.

I hope that the ICC event would be a great success in terms of projecting Bangladesh as a trade and investment destination.

I wish the Conference a grand success.

Joy Bangla! Joy Bangabandhu!

*Dr. A K Abdul Momen MP*  
Dr. A K Abdul Momen MP  
Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



**MINISTER**  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

### Message

On the auspicious occasion of 100 years of International Chamber of Commerce, The world business organization in 2019, it is a very welcome news that International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - Bangladesh has organized The Asia-Pacific Conference on Financing inclusive and Sustainable Development in Dhaka on 10-12 December 2019 focusing on the theme of Exploring a New Financial Landscape for Asia and the Pacific.

We know International Chamber of Commerce headquartered in Paris was established in 1919 in the backdrop of devastating post World War 1. We have always appreciated the global role this unique organization has played since its very inception.

We are aware of the current global concerns of multilateral trade where fair international competition is hindered by continuing high barriers and lesser state support, and also of areas where trade rule-making has not kept pace with changes to the global economy. We also know that market distortions remain significant barrier in the key areas of global trade.

We appreciate the ICC identified intervening areas namely reliable and cost-effective sources of financing, effective regulations to allow business to contribute to economies and societies, increasing dependence on information and communication technologies (ICTs), economic and social benefits of diversity, role of business in global governance, innovation and intellectual property (IP) systems, counterfeiting and piracy, trade and investment and overall responsible business.

Under the historic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, MP, we, in the Ministry of Planning are working dedicatedly to translate her visions into reality and assist various ministries of the government in appropriate planning of their activities to reach the target of Sustainable Development Goals. ICC Bangladesh, now in its journey for a quarter of century, has been playing a significant role since its inception in the development and the growth of external trade and investment of the country.

The conference on Financing inclusive and Sustainable Development organized by ICC Bangladesh will address many of the emerging issues and challenges.

I strongly believe that this conference of the prominent personalities of the business world will be of practical use in our collective efforts in achieving SDGs in the Asia Pacific Region.

I wish the conference a success.

Joy Bangla! Joy Bangabandhu!

*M.A. Mannan MP*  
M.A. Mannan MP  
Minister  
Ministry of Planning  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



**MINISTER**  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

### Message

It's good to know that International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), The world business organization is having its Centenary Celebration worldwide this year. ICC Bangladesh is also celebrating 25 years of its presence in Bangladesh.

I happy to learn that, on this occasion, ICC Bangladesh has organized The Asia-Pacific Conference on Financing inclusive and Sustainable Development in Dhaka on 10-12 December 2019.

Bangladesh stands to capitalize on smart improvements it has made to bolster e-commerce-friendly infrastructure. Our commercial activities are going to be digital and all current business laws, regulations and policies are being made compatible with the global wave of digital commerce revolution. Bangladesh is also being seen as next South Asian ICT destination.

Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, MP, we, in the Ministry of Commerce are making integrated efforts in achieving Sustainable Development Goals and bringing an end to poverty and inequality. I praised the initiative of ICC Bangladesh in organizing this Conference jointly with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), The London Institute of Banking and Finance (LIBF) under the patronage of the Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh.

I hope the deliberations during the 3-day Conference will help in initiating a road-map for achieving the SDGs by 2030.

I wish the conference to be a splendid success.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

*Tipu Munshi, MP*  
Tipu Munshi, MP  
Minister  
Ministry of Commerce  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**NATIONS UNIES**  
**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**  
UNITED NATIONS

### Message

I congratulate the International Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh on the anniversaries you are observing on this occasion.

Thank you for your commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite considerable advances, we are not on track to achieve them by 2030.

That is why I have called for a Decade of Action.

Financing is essential, and requires deep changes in both the public and private sectors. It is crucial to align global economic policies and financial systems with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

We need to scale up climate finance and invest in climate resilience.

We must also harness new technologies to provide equitable financial access for all, especially women and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

With adequate and innovative financing, we can build an inclusive and sustainable future for all.

Thank you.

*António Guterres*  
António Guterres