



Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Celebration of 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh-Germany Diplomatic Relations



Celebration-Cake Cutting. Ambassador of Germany H.E. Achim Tröster & Madam in center flanked by Board of Directors of BGCCI and Dignitaries

Excerpts of Speeches at the Celebration



Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP,
Hon'ble Minister of Bangladesh Foreign Affairs

BGCCI is celebrating the 50th year of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Germany. I thank BGCCI for organizing this commemorative event. Germany recognized Bangladesh soon after our father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned from his captivity in Pakistan. This was a game-changer for the viability of a sovereign Bangladesh on the world map. I recall with deep gratitude the contributions of our respective leaderships in laying the foundation of our bilateral relations. Our bilateral engagement with Germany remained a constant which was boosted in the last twelve years, thanks to the personal rapport between our honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the immediate past German Chancellor Angela Merkel. We look forward to taking Bangladesh-Germany relations to further new heights during Chancellor Olaf Scholz's leadership. The relationship between our two countries will further develop including our trade, commerce, and investment.



H.E. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan
Bangladesh Ambassador in Germany

Germany was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Bangladesh. Both the country shares excellent bilateral relations. We have several projects in Bangladesh funded by the German organization GIZ. Germany is keen to support Bangladesh in the renewable energy sector. As Germany has a new government and our Honorable Prime Minister sent a felicitation letter to the new German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Germany is the second-largest trading partner of Bangladesh. Almost 16% of Bangladesh's Apparel exports are in Germany, other than leather goods, frozen fish, other textile goods are exported to Germany. I am working on increasing German investment and trade in Bangladesh. I have met several federal offices in Germany, and I hope the Bangladesh-Germany friendship will last forever.



Md. Saiful Islam
President, MCCI
Former President, BGCCI

Bangladesh is progressing over the period of the last twelve years and the country is graduating from LDC to Middle Income Country. We feel excited about this graduation but at the same time, we are concerned that how we will be facing the challenges of graduation. The bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Germany has crossed the \$7 Billion landmarks. The balance of trade is in favor of Bangladesh but, we expect within three years' time if we have growth like this, we will attain a bilateral trade worth \$10 Billion.



Thomas Hoffman
President, BGCCI
The message was read by Sr. VP Tarun Patwary

We are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Bangladesh & Germany and the 20th Anniversary of BGCCI's formation. In the 50-year journey, our two countries have forged closer business cooperation. BGCCI provides an ideal platform for the promotion of bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Germany, which is continuously growing. I hope all the members of BGCCI will continue to play a proactive role to promote two-way Trade and Commerce between Bangladesh and Germany.



H.E. Achim Tröster
Ambassador of Germany in Bangladesh

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh-Germany relations is a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. We are looking forward to the next fifty years of highly successful relations and also like to thank BGCCI for accompanying us today. BGCCI is playing a highly important role in building the relationship between both the country and I am looking forward to cooperating closely. Germany was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Bangladesh. We are proud to be a close partner and to have contributed to Bangladesh's remarkable achievements over the last 50 years. A strong pillar of our bilateral relationship remains the development cooperation in the areas of Climate Change, good governance, renewable energy, and the Rohingya issue. As we reflect on our close relationship on this special occasion, it is evident that Germany will continue to remain a committed partner in Bangladesh's development journey in the years to come.



Ambassador-at-Large Mohammad Ziauddin
Bangladesh Prime Minister's Office

Bangladesh and Germany have the best of relations and there has been an increasing interaction in the world of trade and commerce. The German investment in Bangladesh is increasing day by day. I wish BGCCI all the very best and I hope that BGCCI will be able to help Bangladesh in further strengthening the relationship with Germany, particularly in the investment, trade, and commerce sectors.



Abdul Muktadir
Chairman & MD, Incepta
Chair of Committees, BGCCI

BGCCI plays a very important role in bringing businesses of Bangladesh & Germany together. We are fortunate pharmaceuticals company based in Dresden, Germany. We also have a dedicated factory only for Germany in Bangladesh and all the medicines produced in that factory are sent to Germany and other European countries. We are trying to bridge Germany and Bangladesh doing business together. Bangladesh has a strong base for pharmaceuticals. In association with BGCCI and the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries, we would like to arrange a forum where we would like to invite all the German manufacturers to come to Bangladesh and establish offices where we can get the spare parts and many other things that are required for a day-to-day basis. I urge the German leadership to come to Bangladesh and support us by providing high-quality equipment and, spares so that the transition time of machines becomes much faster and together businesses between Bangladesh and Germany will flourish.



H.E. Achim Tröster
Ambassador
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dhaka

Germany in Bangladesh: 50 years of Diplomatic Relationship

This year marks the 50 years of diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and Germany. In 1972, Germany was one of the first countries in Europe to recognize the People's Republic of Bangladesh. On 4 February 1972, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dhaka sent a Verbal Note to the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Bangladesh, which 11 months earlier had declared its independence from Pakistan. Over the past five decades, Bangladesh has achieved outstanding socio-economic development and Germany is delighted to contribute in the process. A strong pillar of our bilateral relationship remains the development cooperation in the areas of climate change, good governance, renewable energy and recently also for the Rohingya and host communities.

Bangladesh, despite frequent natural poverty, has shown resilience and growth. has been halved since of the highest rates in Asia even pandemic. By 2026, officially graduate to the status of a Least Developed Country (LDC), and by 2041, the country aims to become a high-income industrialized country (HIC). In order to meet the increased energy demand without harming the environment and climate, Germany supports Bangladesh's efforts to achieve a maximum coverage through renewable energies sharing the experience from our own transition to renewable energies.

It is impressive what Bangladesh has achieved since independence. Germany is the largest trading partner of Bangladesh in Europe and the second largest globally. RMG exports to Germany in FY20-21 stood at \$5.95 billion as against \$6.97 billion in earnings from the US market. Currently, around 65 German companies are working in Bangladesh, particularly in the textile, transport, energy, logistics sectors and the building materials industry. In cooperation with the German company Veridos, Bangladesh has officially entered the era of e-Passports in 2020. BGCCI is one of our partners that promote business between the two countries. Since the beginning of bilateral development cooperation in the 1970s, Germany has provided more than 3 billion EUR in bilateral development cooperation projects in Bangladesh. A special focus is put on improving labor conditions and environmental standards in the Ready Made Garment (RMG) sector. Besides, Germany has helped Bangladesh fight the challenges of Covid-19 by donating vaccines, ventilators and medical masks. Germany also extends its support to the humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh, investing more than 53 million EUR to support the Rohingya refugees and the host communities since 2018. Besides, we are working together with our partners in the EU to find a political solution together with the UN.

The cultural and educational cooperation between Germany and Bangladesh dates back even before their diplomatic relationship. The cultural and educational cooperation is mainly channelled through the Goethe Institut Dhaka that facilitates exchange of literature, music, film, arts and ideas. The cultural and educational cooperation has significantly expanded with more students choosing Germany as their key destination for higher-studies.

After fifty years, the excellent relationship between Bangladesh and Germany continues to reach new heights with deeper and stronger cooperation. Due to its strategic location in the Indo-Pacific region and its growing importance as a strong political and economic actor, Bangladesh today is an important economic and political partner of Germany. We share the same values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and numerous international conventions, and we work together for a rule-based international order. Both Bangladesh and Germany are committed to democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. As we reflect on our close relationship on the 50th anniversary, it is evident that Germany will continue to remain a committed partner in Bangladesh's development journey in the years to come.



Ambassador of Germany H.E. Achim Tröster with Madam, Deputy Head of German Mission Ms. Constanza Zähringer with the BGCCI Board Members.



The celebration includes AV Presentation, Musical performance, and cultural event.

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