

Bangladesh High Commission

Canberra

Press Release

Western Australian Government committed to a sounder and deeper trade and cultural relationship with Bangladesh

Bangladesh and Australia can deepen their economic cooperation based on the complementarity of their economy and the government of Western Australia is committed to further broaden the areas of cooperation between Bangladesh and Australia. This comment was made by the Hon Kim M Chance, Minister for Agriculture and Food, Government of Western Australia at the seminar and workshop 'Trade and Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh' organised in Perth on 22 August 2006 jointly by the Bangladesh High Commission and the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Western Australia.

Citing the people of Bangladesh as the most important asset and terming Bangladesh as a 'serious country' for doing business, he called upon the business community to develop a new business paradigm with a view to intensifying economic interaction between the two countries in the new global context.

Earlier, in his address of welcome, Bangladesh High Commissioner H.E. Mr. M. Humayun Kabir emphasised on the shared values between Bangladesh and Australia and urged the Western Australian business community to look at Bangladesh as a profitable venue for their future investment. He also called upon the business community to productively explore the possibility of engaging Bangladeshi skilled and semi-skilled labours in various sectors of Australian economy. In this context, he also highlighted the priorities articulated and identified by the High Commission to effectively carry on economic diplomacy, which includes facilitating more exchange of business delegations, capitalising on the duty and quota free market access in Australia, encourage more Australian investment in Bangladesh including human resources development and sharing of knowledge and technology. In addition, the High Commissioner underlined the creative and business friendly policies by the government of Bangladesh. He also drew the attention to the fact that a convergence of approach was emerging from the 'Look East' policy of Bangladesh and the Australian policy of integration with Asia.

Mr. Md. Restadul Islam, Commercial Counsellor of Bangladesh High Commission made a detailed presentation on the business potentials of Bangladesh. Mr. David Tyler, Consultant for Wesfarmers Energy Private Ltd also spoke about his business experience in Bangladesh and urged the business community of Western Australia to take advantage of the business friendly environment of Bangladesh. Among others, Dr. Abu Siddique of University of Western Australia, Mr. Graham Droppert, Honorary Consul General of Bangladesh in Perth also spoke about the favourable business climate of Bangladesh.

The seminar and workshop was attended by Australian businessman, academicians, chamber leaders, government officials and Bangladeshi business entrepreneurs from Sydney and Dhaka. The seminar and workshop concluded with an interactive session of Question and Answer with a vote of thanks from Mr. Brian Hewitt, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Western Australia.

23 August 2006