

Issue 4

March 2009

BDCC UPDATE



Newsletter

**Bangladesh - Dutch Chamber
of Commerce**

A message from our president

We have returned from Bangladesh from an extremely positive and beneficial business mission. Our delegation was scheduled to attend at an International Business Conference held on Oct 30 to Nov 1, 2008 on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI). At this conference we promoted a new organisation called European Bangladesh Federation. During this conference we met several Government bodies and other key organisations. We were delighted to hear many positive reactions related to our main goal: Building effective partnerships between SMEs of Europe and Bangladesh. We were able to explain to Bangladesh's policy makers and business community how we can work together to achieve our mutual goals. The EBF and its Chambers are looking forward to more business-to-business links between the EU and Bangladesh.

Special points of interest :

- **EBF**
- **Trade Missions**
- **ICT Platform**

It is proven again that Bangladesh is a country where many trade and investment opportunities exist across a variety of areas, such as infrastructure, water management, energy, maritime and of course ready made garments.

September 27 - October 4 2009 : MULTI SECTOR TRADE MISSION BANGLADESH

During this forthcoming trip participants will have the opportunity to get acquainted with the people of Bangladesh, their way of life, culture, and see first hand the opportunities that the country has to offer.

The mission will include a visit to the capital of Dhaka, a seminar to provide an understanding on tax, export and investment facilities; identify potential business areas along with further networking opportunities and business evaluations.

The BDCC is able to offer contacts with potential business partners across a variety of sectors and welcomes interested Dutch entrepreneurs, business men and investors alike to join this special and unique event.

Matchmaking, Seminars, Face-to-face business meetings, **** Accommodation Dhaka, Meals, Intercontinental Flight Business Class, Local Transfers, BDCC Support & Organisation, Company visits, Networking, Reporting and Evaluations are included.

Are you interested to enter the promising market of Bangladesh ? Please feel free to contact the BDCC for more detailed information at info@bdcc.eu



The European Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry (EBF) is a non governmental and a not for profit association that has been established to promote and encourage trade, investment and business relations between Europe and Bangladesh. Established in 2008 the organisation will act as the focal point for bi-lateral Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and business forums across Europe, developing and assisting activities in line with the objectives of the association. With extensive knowledge of industry and markets within Bangladesh and throughout Europe, the EBF plans to promote an up to date awareness of Bangladesh's rapidly evolving economy, business and investment opportunities for European partners.

The key aims of EBF include:

- Promoting commerce & industry between the EU and Bangladesh
- Promoting commerce & industry amongst the Bangladeshi diaspora within the EU and EU-Member States
- Providing a network and resource facility for the business community of Bangladeshi origin/interest
- Setting up of chambers or similar entities within each of the 27 EU countries.

Already significant steps have been taken towards establishing EBF chambers in six Member States, including the UK, Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy and Greece with potential being reviewed for EBF chambers in Ireland, Belgium, Sweden and Spain.

For more information : www.ebfci.eu

Outsourcing & Offshoring ICT to Bangladesh: a golden opportunity !

Outsourcing & offshoring ICT - services & activities from EU to Asia has been increased rapidly. Important advantages of outsourcing & offshoring ICT- services & activities are a significant reduction of costs and experienced engineers are in large numbers available.

More than 70.000 professionals in Bangladesh are working in the ICT- sector. Around more than 200 software houses, data-entry centers and numerous other kind of ICT-companies are exporting to over 30 countries worldwide. Furthermore there is experience in working with major European companies. Regarding outsourcing & offshoring ICT, Bangladesh has on a global scale a growing market share and can be considered as a huge potential destination. The competitive advantages are numerous and there is support on government level on tax issues making it possible also for the SME. Bangladesh is a promising market for ICT - entrepreneurs, both in terms of software products and services and has built up a strong competitive position relative to other Asian countries.



Any organisation that makes software, should seriously think about a possible foreign route to Bangladesh. The BDCC can help you to examine the potential benefits of offshoring for your organisation. Please call us or send an email. Your questions will be treated as confidential.

Join one of BDCC's forthcoming Trade Missions in 2009!

MARITIME BANGLADESH

Shipbuilding has almost vanished in European countries due to intensive labour costs. Nowadays countries in South East Asia are receiving orders worth billion of dollars, not only because of the availability of low cost labour, but also because of the availability of a large pool of welders and fitters. Shipyards in Bangladesh are largely manned by Bangladesh workforce and are liked by the employer because of good skill and education.

Shipyards that are capable of catering international orders are fully booked and the demand is high. Other shipyards are planning to update their yards in order to produce vessels under European conditions. At this moment the BDCC is involved with several parties to establish about four shipyards in Bangladesh. In this background there are interesting opportunities for European shipbuilders, suppliers, sub-contractors to enter this booming market in Bangladesh.

Are you interested to enter the promising market of shipbuilding in Bangladesh ? Please feel free to contact the BDCC for more detailed information at info@bdcc.eu



WATER MISSION BANGLADESH

The BDCC in conjunction with the NOM/ IJKDIJK has successfully presented this year a project plan to a number of key Bangladeshi and Dutch Government bodies for several innovative water management systems, with keen interest shown on the following:

- protection of river banks
- reclamation of land
- creation of retention areas
- creation of artificial dikes
- flood forecasting systems

BDCC is now busy to strengthening a mission team and demonstrate to Bangladeshi authorities that the Dutch are world leaders in this field and their natural partners.

The BDCC has already applied a project proposal for the Partners for Waters tender procedure, a stimulation programme of the Dutch Government. Please contact the BDCC at info@bdcc.eu to receive further information on how to join this potentially lifesaving mission.



Why not become a member of the BDCC ?

Being a member has distinct advantages as we provide :

- Networking
- Due diligence
- Provide members with information on competitors, suppliers and governance key business issues
- Partner search
- Visa Service
- Market research
- Individual Matchmaking
- Face to face business meetings

Contact

BDCC
Bangladesh-Dutch
Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Theo Huizing
Emmaplein 2, 9711 AP
Groningen

T + 31 (0) 50 3682382

F + 31 (0) 50 3682369

info@bdcc.eu

www.bdcc.eu

Bangladesh: Emerging Destination for Trade & Investment

Bangladesh is classified as an LDC (Least Developed country) by the UN and as such enjoys duty and quota free access for all of its products destined to EU countries under the EBA (Everything but Arms) agreement.

To this end Bangladesh offers the following incentives for trade and investment:

- the government of Bangladesh offers attractive facilities to areas of taxes in relation with the import and export of trade and services.
- the government offers favourable measures for committing investments.
- work permits are easily obtained.
- transfer of dividends, capital, profits on capital has been permitted
- costs of production and labour lies lower than in neighbouring countries China and India
- cost of the living is there relative low
- in Bangladesh are no ethnic problems
- foreign investments have been protected and have been protected by the law

English is spoken everywhere and is 2nd language of the country