

Remarks by the President, DCCI at the closing ceremony of NTFII Project

Date March 10, 2013

Venue: BASIS Auditorium

I am very happy to welcome you all to this closing session of Netherlands Trust Fund II(NTFII) project. I thank you very much for taking the time, during these past few years for making the project a full success.

I would like to thank all of you present here, who have been sharing your insights and experiences and thoughts for the cause of the project. Your participation and commitment are deeply appreciated.

I know that all of you have been going through this Project in a systematic and constructive way, starting its journey in 2010 and completing the last three years.

NTF II- Bangladesh for Creating Sustainable Exporter Competitiveness in the IT & ITES Sector in Bangladesh was about \$2.17mil (approx.) project implemented by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), Dutch Govt. funded the project.

The project aimed to enhance competencies in BD TSI partners (DCCI & BASIS) to develop and implement a modern business model for effectively linking BD Exporters (IT & ITES) to EU companies; we believe that the project objectives have been achieved.

Among the achievements, B2B matchmaking services deployed by Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services in October while in DCCI also at a bit later stage. A significant number of participants attended in the December Conference for preparing Brand Strategy for the country.

In the pre-arranged B2B Matchmaking event in Bangladesh, selected 40 companies have participated. Report says, 50% companies have had their new business already. Exporter Directory publications for promoting Bangladeshi Companies is another milestones of the project.

My friends and partners of the Project

We have broken the silence and proved that ICT can be one of the prominent sectors to join with RMG in Bangladesh. During the project period countless organizations and their members work tirelessly to support the project activities in many countries.

I do like to appreciate the leadership and coordination of ITC specially Ms Lilia Nass and Mr Martin Labbe for their tireless efforts to make the project a success. DCCI has been maintaining a long standing relation with ITC since 1990, the then DCCI Training Institute started in

cooperation with ITC, presently the most successful programme in the DCCI Business Institute (DBI) on Supply Chain Management has been initiated in cooperation with ITC. We do like to continue with ITC with similar type of projects in future also.

I applaud the efforts being taken to build partnerships and alliances and DCCI and BASIS has set an example in that respect. I would like to recall the FTR Training Workshop held in Netherlands with BD Trade Counselors posted in EU organized under the project, we wanted to repeat the programme but could not do that because of time constraints of the government officials.

We are very much hopeful that the B2B will go a long way while we believe launching of Online Directory will also serve the purpose of the private sector to expand their business.

Let us show the will, the determination and let us mobilize greater action and resources to contribute for Digital Bangladesh, let us do all we can so that every young generation of the country gets employment and can live in freedom and dignity, this is ICT who can contribute most.

I thank you all once again.

Mr. Md Sabur Khan
President, DCCI