

Speech by **Mr. Md. Sabur Khan**, President, DCCI at the award giving ceremony “**National SME Women Entrepreneurs Award - 2012**” organized by SME foundation.

**Date:** February 04, 2013 at 06:30 p.m.

**Venue:** Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka.

BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM,

Hon’ble Minister, Mr. Dilip Barua, Ministry of Industries, Government of Bangladesh and Chief Guest of today’s program; Distinguished Guests and Participants; Representatives of media both print and electronic;

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Assalamu Alaikum and Good Evening

On behalf of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and on my own behalf it is a great honor and privilege for me to speak this very prestigious ceremony on “National SME Women Entrepreneurs Award - 2012” organized by SME foundation. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank to SME Foundation for inviting me.

**Distinguished Gatherings,**

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the life blood of Bangladesh Economy has been contributing about 25% of GDP to the value addition in manufacturing sector in Bangladesh. SMEs are critical to our future economic prosperity. It is matter of encouraging that a good number of women are now contributing in the economic progress of Bangladesh through involving in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

In this process policy related factors and institutional factors play vital role. Women's economic empowerment is a prerequisite for sustainable growth of the nation. I welcome SME foundation for their rolling effort on addressing the women achievement through honour the best successful SME woman entrepreneurs of the country in different categories namely micro, small, and medium including special contribution to the society.

**Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,**

Financing in the productive capacity of the economy is critical to long term economic success of SMEs. While large businesses have various options open to them, including the capital markets, SMEs are heavily dependent on the banking system. Access to credit finance is one of the major challenges for development of women entrepreneurs in SME sector. During FY 2010- 2012 approximately 140 thousand crores of taka has been disbursed to the overall SME sector. Only 6000 crores taka has been disbursed to women entrepreneurs which comprises only 4 % of the total SME credit disbursement. Some banks disburse only one per cent of their total small and medium enterprises (SME) credit for women entrepreneurs while some totally ignore although only four per cent of the total SME credit disbursed goes to them. It needs serious attention from concerned authority for financing for women entrepreneurs. At the

same time it's also true that concentrating only on financing for women is not enough it also requires attention and implementation of policies on product development, product marketing, extensive training and capacity building of women entrepreneurs.

Distinguished Gathering,

Government policy is not always favourable for protecting the interests of women entrepreneurs in small and medium enterprises (SME) , particularly in areas that matter for promoting their fruitful participation in the national economic development process.

Many women entrepreneurs have lack of knowledge on trade licence, TIN, VAT registration and the system of income tax and VAT payment procedures. Major segment of the women entrepreneurs are conducting their business without valid trade license. They also don't have proper knowledge on Labour laws and environment protection. The lack of management experience and production skill is yet another major constraint facing the women entrepreneurs.

**Distinguished Guests,**

Government and other stakeholders should take proper initiatives to create more opportunities for women entrepreneurs in SMEs. Altogether, women entrepreneurs in SME sector are now contributing much to the growth of the economy, generation of employment opportunities and enhancement of productivity of the country. We need to attract investors from home and abroad. This is because we have some opportunities to offer appropriate policy frame work, huge pool of easily trainable manpower and consistent commitment from government and private sector. About 80% of DCCI members are Small and Medium Enterprises. It has playing an important and active role in the development of SME in Bangladesh. So DCCI always assure all types of support and services for the development of SMEs.

I do not like to prolong further. I thanked SME foundation for this endeavour to encourage women participation in national economy. I also want to show my appreciation to the jury board who were involved in finalizing the lists and which was really a tough job to do.

Thank you for your patience hearing.

Allah Hafez

**Md. Sabur Khan**  
President, DCCI