

## Meet Bangladesh- Asia's Next Big Investment Opportunity



### Conference and Business Showcase

Queen Elizabeth Conference Center II, Westminster, London on Friday 26th- Saturday 27th November

**Meet Bangladesh** will offer the unique opportunity to interact with the “Who’s Who” of Bangladeshi businesses, who are driving Bangladesh’s economic growth. The conference will showcase the various sectors and corporate and create engagement opportunities for potential FDI and portfolio investors.

Co Hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh the event will cover both a 2 Day Conference as well as “Business Showcasing” of some of the best businesses from Bangladesh giving opportunities for one-on-one dialogues.

#### Conference:

Day 1 of the conference is targeting the British Business community and investors. The day’s session will include key note presentations on the Next 11, the Bangladesh economy and sectors, panel discussions, breakout sessions by leading business leaders from Bangladesh around the following sectors:

- Energy & Infrastructure
- ICT & Business Services
- Manufacturing (Garments, Shipbuilding, Agro & Food Processing, Ceramics, Furniture )
- Pharmaceuticals

Day 2 is for British Bangladeshi professionals and investors, which will focus on the following areas:

- Infrastructure Fund
- ICT & Business Services
- Education & Knowledge Development
- Tourism
- Diaspora

Leading Enterprises from Bangladesh will attend this exclusive showcasing. Square, Beximco, Rahimafrooz, Grameenphone, Otobi, Navana, Gemcon Group, Bangladesh Software Association, Brac Bank, Prime Bank and many more

Senior level government officials including Commerce Minister, Tourism Minister, Energy Advisor, & Economic Advisor will also join the summit.

The summit is supported by – UKTI, British Council, CBI, Asia House, London Chamber of Commerce, Saatchi & Saatchi, Canary Wharf Group, Visit London, to name a few.

The Conference and Business showcase will take place in the prestigious **Queen Elizabeth Conference Center II, Westminster, London on Friday 26th- Saturday 27th November**. For more information contact Maher Anjum: [bbflondon@btinternet.com](mailto:bbflondon@btinternet.com)

Engage with **Asia’s Next Big Investment Opportunity** before the rest of the world does!

### Bangladesh Now

As Asia emerges from the global economic crisis faster than the rest of the world, it is increasingly clear that the world's centre of gravity is shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Within the Asian Century debate, there is a great deal of focus and analysis on the opportunities in "Chindia" (China and India). However, we believe that there may be more undiscovered and less crowded, opportunities in some of the next most populous countries in Asia such as Bangladesh with 160mn people. It is included in the Goldman Sachs "Next 11" (N11), a term Chief Economist Jim O Neill has coined to refer to the countries after the BRICs that will likely have the largest impact on the future shape of the global economy. It is also included in the JP Morgan "Frontier Five".

Bangladesh's geographic position gives it every opportunity to be a leveraged player and to participate in the "Asian Century". We believe it is this potential that will increase the focus, interest and opportunities for global investors. The image of Bangladesh for the rest of the world, what one might define as "Brand Bangladesh", is likely to be one of natural disasters, grinding poverty, overpopulation and corruption. A more **positive impression** we believe is **relevant of Bangladesh**. It has a young population of 160mn people with very favourable demographics resulting in **one of the fastest rates of growth of labour supply in the world**; a **country in the heart of Asia and juxtaposed strategically between India and China**; a very **entrepreneurial culture** as evidenced both by the resilience of the textile sector to the end of MFA quotas.

The resilience of **Bangladesh's** economy and financial markets so far from 2008 to the global financial crisis must be commended. Indeed, the country has a history of exceeding expectations. Bangladesh emerged from the 1971 War of Independence a free nation, but one whose economy and infrastructure was shattered. It was notably described by US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as "an international basket case". It's achievements over the past 37 years has been impressive, most notably in its emergence as a major textile and RMG exporter. More broadly, the low volatility and consistency of growth in the past decade, despite political instability and natural disasters is a testament to a dynamic and entrepreneurial private sector.

**Bangladesh** has **three key attractions for global investors and multinationals**: **1)** a large base of low-cost and easily trainable labour; **2)** a large domestic market of 160mn people; **3)** Nearly 3bn people in the Asian region that it has market access to. We believe it is credible for Bangladesh to emulate Vietnam's FDI performance of a tenfold increase over seven years.

## Key Facts about Bangladesh

- The Most Resilient in economy in the world to the global crisis with GDP growth in 2009 only slowing to 5.8% from 6.1% in 2008. It is expected to grow by 6.3% in 2010.
- A young dynamic population of 160mn people with a median age of 23.3 years and 65% of the population under the age of 25.
- The Bangladesh Garments industry has grown from \$340 Million in 1973 to \$15.5 Billion dollars in 2009 and is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest exporter in the world.
- The Bangladesh Stock market has been the best performing equities market in the last 3 years with a return of 145 % since Oct 2007 and an annual growth rate over that period of 35%.
- Bangladesh has been the fastest appreciating real estate market in the world last year
- In 12 Years Telenor's investment in Grameenphone has grown by 140 % with GP the largest company on the stock market valued at almost \$ 5.5 billion and 63 million mobile subscribers.
- Products made by Shinepukur ceramics are now used in the 1<sup>st</sup> Class cabins of British Airways and Singapore Airlines.

While Bangladesh offers major untapped business opportunities, it is also a unique country which operates in its own complex way.

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