

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance
Economic Relations Division
PRS-HAP Cell

Speech of the National Coordinator, ERD, Ministry of Finance

Hon'ble Chief Guest, Mr. Md. Aminul Islam Bhuiyan, Secretary, ERD
Hon'ble Guest H. E. Mr. Masayuki Inoue, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan
Hon'ble Guest Mr. Manoj Basnyat, Country Director, UNDP
Representatives of Development Partners
Excellencies
Distinguished Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamu Alaikum,

We welcome you all this morning to this august gathering in ERD, Dhaka. This workshop is focused solely on Harmonization and Aid Effectiveness agenda. You may be aware that the Government of Bangladesh has volunteered to conduct the Evaluation of the Implementation of Paris Declaration at country level. In that context Joint Chief, ERD (Coordination) appointed as a National Evaluation Coordinator. The consulting firm has already been selected for the evaluation purpose as per PPR'03, with funding support by Japan, and the firm, in close consultation with GoB and DPs, has already submitted a report on preliminary findings.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The workshop is going to be organized to share the preliminary findings with stakeholders such as the concerned GoB officials and Development Partners in order to improve findings of the report through valuable comments of the stakeholders. The findings will be further shared with OECD/DAC and other participating countries at the regional workshop to be held in South Africa from 31 Jan – 01 Feb 2008. The purpose of the workshop is:

- To understand the context of Evaluation of the Implementation of Paris Declaration
- To share the emerging findings on Paris Declaration Evaluation and provide further inputs to the evaluation exercise

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I must thank all relevant stakeholders who contributed to implement the Paris Declaration and relevant works. I also would like to take this opportunity to call upon all the line Ministries and the Development Partners to extend their continuous support (a) to further localization and adaptation of the harmonization efforts to Bangladesh realities and (b) help disseminate the core messages of the Harmonization agenda to the grassroots level. I must thankful to my colleagues who work in the PRS-HAP Cell of ERD for their continuous efforts to closely work with our DPs. Special thanks to Ms. Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labe, Aid/Donor Coordinator Adviser, UNRC Office, Ms. Kayo TORII, Deputy Representative, JICA, Mr. Bo Sundstrom, DFID, Mr. Leo van der Tang, Netherlands, Mr. Touhid Alam, UNFPA, Mr. Shamsur Rahman, JBIC, Mr. Jan Moller Hansen, Denmark and all other Working Group members. Without their spontaneous and continued support to us, the progress in the implementation of Paris Declaration at the country level will be an impossible task.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This workshop is an important opportunity to provide feedback/inputs to the preliminary findings from stakeholders to better reflect what is happening in Bangladesh. Today's inputs will be further reflected in the Consultant's report and will be shared with DAC and other countries at the Johannesburg workshop finally will be reflected in the Accra High Level Forum.

Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the support provided by JICA and other development partners through UNDP multi-donor initiative to financially support this initiative.

Finally, I would like to invite you all on workshop on PD Evaluation in ERD on suggested Agenda. As you see in our Agenda that– At the opening session, address by Guests of Honor and Chief Guest. Then, Consultant Team Leader presents summary of preliminary findings and recommendations, which follows by comments/question session.

Thank you all.