

**Ambassador H.E. Masayuki Inoue's speech at the Workshop
on Paris Declaration Evaluation on Thursday, Jan. 24,
at NEC-2, ERD, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka**

Mr. Md. Aminul Islam Bhuiyan, Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD)

Mr. Manoj Basnyat, Country Director, UNDP;

Mr. Md. Munirul Haque, Joint-Chief, PRS-HAP Cell, ERD & National Evaluation
Coordinator, PD Evaluation;

Special and Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Assalamu Alaikum.

On behalf of Development Partners in Bangladesh, I would like to congratulate ERD to organize this workshop to share and discuss the preliminary findings of the Evaluation of Paris Declaration. I profoundly thank the leadership of ERD Secretary and commitment of PRS-HAP cell officials for taking initiative towards enhancing harmonization and aid effectiveness, including this Paris Declaration Evaluation and upcoming OECD-DAC survey 2008.

As explained earlier, today's workshop is arranged in order to share the preliminary findings from the consultants about the Paris declaration evaluation in Bangladesh. Plus, this enables us to get feedback from the relevant government officials and Development Partners so that the report will be further improved to make valuable contribution to the global discussion at DAC. More importantly, I hope that the evaluation report will also give us hints to collectively move forward with a view to strengthen aid effectiveness by assessing what constitutes better practices for partner and donor behavior in regard to implementation of the Paris Declaration in Bangladesh context.

In March 2007, Government of Bangladesh (GOB), after participating in OECD-DAC survey, volunteered to conduct the evaluation of Paris Declaration at country level and nominated National Evaluation Coordinator in ERD. We highly appreciate GOB's active efforts to promote implementation of Paris Declaration under the leadership of

the ERD Secretary. I assure that Development partners (DPs) continue to support the efforts of GOB and work together towards strengthening aid effectiveness in Bangladesh.

This country evaluation is a great opportunity to highlight the reality of partner country in terms of the implementation of Paris Declaration and bring the ground reality to the discussion at DAC. Our job is to positively contribute in the process by providing valuable inputs into the evaluation process. The most important thing is to reflect the real situation of the partnership countries. Quantitative indicators alone cannot necessarily capture various efforts made in partner countries to improve aid. I also believe that more focus to be given on how to enhance outcome/output of aid, in addition to discussion on procedural harmonization.

I expect that the evaluation report will analyze relevance of Paris Declaration in Bangladesh context, and review positive changes by both GoB and DPs since Paris Declaration, which will help us to better understand what works and what not and why. Suggestion in concrete terms is important to further enhance outputs of aid program and improve sustainability in coordinated manner. In terms of the indicators, I expect that more discussion will be done through this evaluation process on how these are relevant in Bangladesh context and also to see which indicators are to be revisited to capture the reality of the country in promoting aid effectiveness. During this process, the utilization of mechanism such as Working Group, comprised of both representatives of relevant GoB ministries/departments and DP who are actually dealing with aid program/project, is important.

Further in this regard, I found that preliminary findings, which was sent to LCG members day before, says that "sustainability" is not appropriately captured in current indicators. This is an important point and will be our challenge how to reflect various efforts to improve sustainability in the Paris Declaration. I hope that this evaluation exercise will also help to deepen this discussion.

Bangladesh is the only one country which participated in OECD-DAC survey 2006 from south-west Asia region, and it further expressed its participation to the survey in

2008. While examples from African countries' are often subjects of international discussion on harmonization, Bangladesh's efforts towards enhancing aid effectiveness, based on its reality in the field, as a representative of the south-west Asia region, should be highly evaluated.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to draw your attention that the process of this evaluation itself is based on Paris declaration spirit. GOB procured consultants as per Public Procurement Regulation 2003, with funding support by JICA, and NEC centrally monitors the process of this evaluation with close collaboration with Working Group members. In other words, the process of this evaluation itself highly valued at the "ownership" and "alignment". Through this process of the evaluation, we expect that the coordination capacity of HAP-cell is further strengthened and the understandings of the officials in the line ministries would be deepened.

Also, interested DPs have been actively participated in this Working Group and monitor the process of this evaluation exercise with the relevant government officials through the intensive discussion. This framework of collaboration appears really effective: it would promote the active actions both from GOB and DPs toward aid effectiveness under the leadership of the government.

Finally, I would like to requests all the participants to provide valuable inputs and comments based on your real experience. I understand that feedback from the participants of today's workshop will be incorporated in the draft report, which will be further shared with DAC at the Johannesburg workshop, for which National Evaluation Coordinator and the Team Leader are invited. I believe that experience/knowledge which will be obtained from the coming Johannesburg workshop will further enrich Bangladesh country report. I learnt that the final report will be submitted in March and at that time I expect another sharing workshop. We are happy to continue to support this effort to promote further aid effectiveness in Bangladesh.

I wish the workshops on Paris Declaration Evaluation a bright success.