



Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President Abul Kasem Khan speaking at a business meeting between DCCI and Dutch Maritime Trade Mission at DCCI auditorium in the city Tuesday.

Dutch cos invited to launch joint venture

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Foreseeing Bangladesh as a strong market of shipbuilding in Southeast Asia, visiting Dutch Maritime trade body Tuesday viewed that more shipyards will be needed to make Bangladesh's position stronger in this emerging sector, reports UNB

"It's an emerging market...Bangladesh has good infrastructure but the important thing is that more shipyards are needed here to increase the number of ships to be built here," said Fred Oldenhuizing, leader of the Dutch Maritime Trade Mission.

Fred, also president of Bangladesh Dutch Chamber

of Commerce (BDCC), made the observation while addressing a business meeting with local trade leaders at Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

The DCCI arranged the business meeting chaired by its president Abul Kasem Khan. Director of Board of Investment (BoI) representative Tofazzal Hossain Mia and President of European Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry Walli Tasar Uddin, among others, addressed the meeting.

"Our companies have lot of experience...they're very ambitious to explore the

possibilities in Bangladesh in the maritime sector. We can combine knowledge, experience and strength of Dutch companies to help Bangladesh ensure farm position in shipbuilding sector in the future," he said.

About the importance of the mission, he said it is the first Dutch government sponsored mission to Bangladesh to combine the two markets and to encourage and develop business between companies of both the countries.

He hoped a lot of new bilateral trade and cooperation would develop following the mission, observing that working together in the maritime sector would benefit both the countries and the companies.

The BoI representative Tofazzal Hossain Mia invited the Dutch trade team to avail of the opportunities Bangladesh is offering to foreign investors both for direct and joint investments, apart from other facilities including low cost workforce.

He assured them of protecting their investments. "Your investment is very much protected and secured here...Bangladesh is a bright area of investment...we don't have any major restrictions."

The DCCI president Abul Kasem Khan said Bangladesh has an immense opportunity of acquiring huge shipbuilding orders worldwide as about fifty percent ships with less than 500 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) capacity vessels of over 20-year-old needs to be replaced within the next couple of years.

He invited the Dutch maritime team to take the opportunity of establishing joint venture project in the shipbuilding sector.