

Press release seminar on Netherlands private sector support programmes

April 6, Conference Room, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Jointly organised by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and DCCI

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) jointly organised a seminar to inform the Bangladeshi private sector on the business to business support programmes of the Netherlands government. The seminar took place at the conference room of DCCI, on April 6, 2010.

The government of the Netherlands has a number of programmes available which aim to develop the private sector in Bangladesh. The Private Sector Investment program offers a maximum grant of 750.000 euro for establishing an innovative joint venture with an international business partner. The Match Making Facility assists Bangladeshi companies to find a suitable business partner in the Netherlands. The PUM program offers short term consultancies to Bangladeshi companies. Finally, the ORIO programme aims to improve public infrastructure.

The seminar was opened by the president of DCCI Mr. Abul Kasem Khan. The Ambassador of the Netherlands explained the policy objectives of the programs, and Mr Paul Schoenmakers of the Netherlands Agency for International Business and Cooperation (EVD) provided detailed practical information in this regard.

The different programmes in more detail:

The PSI Programme was launched in December 2008 by the EVD. PSI offers financial support to Dutch and foreign companies entering into long-term cooperation with a local partner in developing countries. This means that if a company from Bangladesh wants to apply for the PSI program it needs an international project partner. The objective of PSI is to stimulate economic growth, create employment, and generate income in developing countries. PSI is active in 53 countries, including Bangladesh. Currently, there are 11 projects in Bangladesh.

The Match Making Facility provides technical assistance to Bangladeshi companies that would like to find a Dutch business partner. The Match Making Facility is implemented by the EVD. Upon request of the Bangladeshi company, the EVD actively searches for a suitable Dutch business partner. If a suitable partner is found, the EVD - in consultation with the Bangladeshi company – grants a feasibility study to define the potential for cooperation.

The PUM program provides short term consultancies to Bangladeshi companies. The consultancies are performed by retired experts of the Dutch private sector. Apart from providing food and lodging to the consultant, no other costs are involved for the Bangladeshi client.

The ORIO programme aims to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by investing in public infrastructure in developing countries. For Bangladesh the applicable sectors are: water management, energy and environment. The Bangladeshi Government is the applicant for an ORIO-project. Representatives of the private sector are invited to initiate project proposals. The maximum project cost is 60 million euro and the minimum 2 million Euros. The maximum financial contribution to a project is 30 million Euros and the minimum is 1 million Euros.

More information on these support programmes is available on the following websites:

PSI: www.evd.nl/psi

MMF: www.netherlandsembassydhaka.org

PUM: www.pum.nl

ORIO: www.orio.nl