

## THE FOURTH D-8 TASK FORCE MEETING ON SMEs

9 October 2012, Dhaka, Bangladesh

### **Present Member Countries at the SME Taskforce Meeting**

The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Arab Republic of Egypt

Republic of Indonesia

Islamic Republic of Iran

Malaysia

Federal Republic of Nigeria

Republic of Turkey

A meeting of D-8 working group on "SME Taskforce" was held on October 09, 2012 at "Palash" hall of Hotel Ruposhi Bangla, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was chaired by Mrs Parveen Mahmud FCA, Former President, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, Former Director, SME Foundation. The meeting was moderated by Mr. Md. Mujibur Rahman, Deputy General Manager, SME Foundation. Key note papers were presented by Dr. K. M. Nabiul Islam (Bangladesh), Mr. Ahmad Javanmardi (Iran), Bayu Fajar Nugroho (Indonesia), Mohd Izham Abdullah (Malaysia), Aynur Odaman (Turkey). Engr. Abu Ozigi (Nigeria), Mr. Amr A. Radwan (Egypt). The delegations were composed of high government officials, entrepreneurs, professionals, academicians, and researchers from respective countries.

During the deliberations participants highlighted problems and prospects of SMEs in their respective countries. They discussed on different "Governmental Bodies" working on SME development in their respective countries. They also mentioned the area of cooperation among the member countries of D-8 in the field of SME development.

They came to a consensus that, Communication Network has to be established to coordinate activities of SME Taskforce of D-8 and implement previous decisions.

In Bangladesh presentation the keynote presenter highlighted that, too many processing documentation is one of the major barriers to get SME loan by the entrepreneurs. He recommended need for establishing industrial park for SMEs. Subcontracting facilities shall be developed for increasing efficiency. Need for SME refinancing scheme also discussed with priority in the meeting.

Mr. A.K.M Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Industries presented a paper on SME Governmental Bodies in Bangladesh. In his paper Mr. Islam showed that, government has formulated National Taskforce on SME development, established SME Cell, SME Foundation etc. institutions for SME promotion in Bangladesh.

The Indonesian presenter mentioned that, Indonesia is working on 4 pillars of SME development. There are Cluster development, Entrepreneurship development, one village one products, and Initiative for SME development.

Nigerian representative outlined the Countries various SME development programmes/initiatives and effective participation in D-8 activities. He further re-affirmed Nigeria's commitment to establish D-8 SME training center in Nigeria. Iranian presenter emphasized on implementation and monitoring of previous decisions. He mentioned that, we are seating for the fifth time in D-8 meeting, discussing issues but some of these decisions were implemented. So this is the time for recommending a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation status.

Malaysian presenter informed that, Malaysia has adopted "SME Master Plan (2012-2020)". Malaysia is working upon 4 new approaches namely, public private partnership, innovation and productivity, outcome base, and 'live' plan. Under the SME Master plan, six high impact programs (HIPs) are the key driver to spur the development of Malaysian SMEs.

Egypt paper discussed about their major SME sectors namely textile, food, chemical, and leathers. He also informed the house that, Egypt is providing social fund for SME development to the entrepreneurs.

Turkey presenter emphasized the importance of 'Green SMEs' to encourage each member in adopting Green Technology and renewable energy in their development programmes.

## **Recommendation**

1. The meeting agreed on a Joint MoU to be signed and discussed in respective organization of each member country and in case of concurrence it will be presented for signature by member countries within two months. The required action plan of the MoU will be proposed, disseminated among member countries and D-8 secretariat by KOSGEB (Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of Turkey). This will also include the activities on 'Green SMEs'.
2. ISIPO (Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization) agreed to chair the meeting for the next two years.
3. All member countries agreed to form a Communication Network according to article-1 of the final reports of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd SMEs Governmental Bodies Meeting. Therefore the Directives of the Communication Network is distributed among member countries and D-8 Secretariat. Iran will initiate the task.
4. Chairing organization "ISIPO" within 3 months after finalization of Communication Network Directives (CND) will provide and disseminate the action plan of CND.