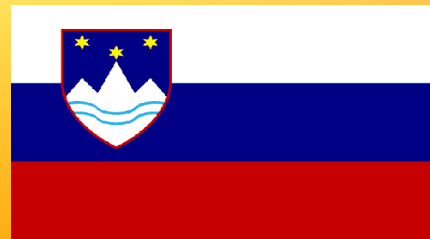




Economic situation of Bangladesh

Business opportunities in Bangladesh

Business Breakfast: Next eleven Economies
Ljubljana, 14 September 2012



Bangladesh – a South Asian country at a glance

Bangladesh is located in the Southern Asia bordering the Bay of Bengal with the coastline covering **580 km** between Myanmar & India with the land boundaries **4,246 km** where Myanmar covered **193 km** and India covered **4,053 km**. Total area is **147,570sq km** and the total population is **162 million**. The climate of the country is focused as tropical; mild winter (October to March); hot, humid summer (March to June); humid, warm rainy monsoon (June to October). Official language is Bangla (Bengali). English is widely used in Government, Business and Universities. Out of total population, Muslim 89.6 %, Hindu 9.3 %, Buddhist 0.5%, Christian 0.3% and Other 0.3%.

Bangladesh is strategically located next to India, China and ASEAN markets. The country has proved to be an **attractive investment location with its 162 million population and consistent economic growth** leading to strong and growing domestic demand. The country is a combination of competitive market, business-friendly environment and cost structure that can give the best returns. Bangladesh offers a well-educated, highly adaptive and industrious workforce with the lowest wages and salaries in the region. **57.30% of the population is under 25**, providing a youthful group for recruitment. The country has consistently developed a skilled workforce catering to investors needs.

Energy prices in Bangladesh are the most competitive in the region. Bangladesh offers the **most liberal FDI regime in South Asia, allowing 100% foreign equity** with unrestricted exit policy, easy remittance of royalty, and repatriation of profits and incomes. Bangladesh offers **export-oriented industrial enclaves with infrastructural facilities and logistical support for foreign investors**.



Bangladesh's thriving economy

The economic position of the country is GDP/PPP (2011 est.): **USD 100 billion; per capita USD 664**;

Real growth rate: **6%**, Inflation: **11.3%**;

Major Export items of Bangladesh

The **traditional export items** of Bangladesh are: raw jute, jute manufactures (Hessian sacking, carpet backing, carpets), jute products, tea, leather and leather products. **Non-traditional export items** are: garments, frozen shrimps, other fish products, newsprint, paper, naphtha, furnace oil, urea and ceramic products;

Major Import items of Bangladesh

The economy of Bangladesh **depends on imports both for consumer items and industrial raw materials**. The major import items of Bangladesh are: Wheat, oil, seeds, crude petroleum, raw cotton, edible oil, petroleum products, fertilizer, staple fibers, yarn, iron and steel, capital goods. Major trading partners of Bangladesh for both exports and imports are: **USA, EU countries, India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, UAE**;

Opportunities exist in IT, telecommunications, city infrastructure, transportation, power, garments and textiles, real estate, natural resources, frozen foods, agribusiness and many other industries.



Bangladesh shipbuilding industry
Source: *Internet*



Dhaka, Centre of the city
Source: *Internet*

The Government implemented **several reforms in macroeconomic management during FY 2010-11**. These are briefly enumerated below:

Budget Management

- To **maintain macroeconomic stability and to ensure transparency and accountability** in the budget preparation process, quarterly reports on budget implementation status, trends of revenues and expenditures along with the analysis of macroeconomic situation of the country has been placed before Parliament as per the provision of the 'Public Money and Budget Management Act 2009'.
- All the ministries/divisions have been brought under the coverage of **Medium-term Budget Framework (MTBF)** which is designed to link the budget with the development policy and resource allocation with performance.

Cost of Doing Business

In order to **facilitate expansion of trade**, the Government has undertaken **several reform initiatives** to reduce the cost of doing business. These include:

- modernization and automation of land registration system on a pilot basis;
- digitalization of land survey, record and preservation and registration process;
- settlement of trade related disputes and establishment of dedicated benches in the **High Court** to dispose off the pending cases of **National Board of Revenue**;
- use of modern technology in every unit of customs department to initiate automated estimation of duties and levies for advance declaration and cargo clearance;
- introduction of automation in the judiciary;
- establishment of **One-stop Service Centre** to facilitate issuance of different clearance certificates from one place for construction activities;
- collection of all sorts of government receipts through mobile phones and introduction of online system instead of collection of receipts through treasury chalans.

It is expected that implementation of these reforms will make the **business process much easier and reduce substantially the cost of doing business**.

Initiatives have also been taken to sign **Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements** with all countries, with which Bangladesh has substantial amount of trade.

Special Economic Zones

Besides, the Government has taken an **initiative to create Special Economic Zones** for triggering the development of backward regions as well as the growth of industry and agriculture in the industrially potential areas. Meanwhile, a law titled '**Bangladesh Economic Zone Act, 2010**' has been enacted.



Public Private Partnership is significantly developing these days in Bangladesh
Source: Internet

Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

As part of the process of strengthening the **Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives**, a policy and strategy for **Public-Private Partnership** has been formulated. In the meantime, PPP office has been set up and a number of officials have been posted to this office for smooth running of its functions. Besides, **Bangladesh Infrastructure Investment Fund (BIIF)**, which was created for attracting investment from local and foreign investors, has been transformed into a company which has already started its operation during **FY2011-12**.

The vision of the Government is that Bangladesh will have, **by 2021, a dominant industrial sector**, where industrial sector will account for **at least 40% of the the gross domestic product (GDP)** with a capacity

Potential investment sectors in Bangladesh

Bangladesh, **traditionally known for jute and tea exports**, has recently attracted attention for **ready-made garments and leather exports**. The country is currently **best placed** in the region for **textiles and garments industry** due to reasonable labor price and **favorable trade status with the EU**. Again, Government incentives for the spinning and weaving industries in the form of cash subsidy of the fabric cost to exporters sourcing fabrics locally. There is **huge yarn and fabric demand** supply gap in the RMG industries which is presently met by imports. Thus, the potential for backward linkage industry has enormous Prospect for a huge textile industry capable to supply **over 3 billion yards of fabrics a year** to the export oriented garment industry. Presently, about 85%-90% of this demand is met by import from countries like China, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, etc. Fabric requirement is increasing at **20% per annum**. This offers an opportunity for further investment.

Energy cost in Bangladesh is lower compared to India and Pakistan

India	\$ 0.095/KwH
Pakistan	\$ 0.08/KwH
Bangladesh	\$ 0.07/KwH

Source: Bangladesh Government

Labor costs incurred in the textile industry is the lowest compared to its competitors, which are as follows:

Thailand	\$ 1.00/Hour
India	\$ 0.60/Hour
Sri Lanka	\$ 0.45/Hour
Vietnam	\$ 0.40/Hour
Indonesia	\$ 0.40/Hour
Pakistan	\$ 0.40/Hour
China	\$ 0.35/Hour
Bangladesh	\$ 0.25/Hour

Source: Bangladesh Government

Bangladesh – Slovenia cooperation

According to the data provided by **Export Promotion Bureau in Dhaka**, Bangladesh – Slovenia Balance of Trade in the years **2006-2012** took the following shape:

FY	Export	Import	Balance
2006-07	3.71	N.A	(+) 3.71
2007-08	3.47	N.A	(+) 3.47
2008-09	3.26	N.A	(+) 3.26
2009-10	3.59	N.A	(+) 3.59
2010-11	7.08	1.10	(+) 5.98
2011-12	11.45	0.90 (July-May)	-

Source: Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka 2012

As stated in the statistics from the recent period of **July-June 2011-2012**, Slovenia has become a serious importer of Bangladesh goods in the recent time. To the most important commodities being now exported to Slovenia at a large scale are **textiles, pharmaceutical products, vegetables, paper yarn, fibres and ceramic products**. While the total import in period **January – May 2012** amounted to **EUR 4,173 million**, the amount of exported goods was around **EUR 0,271 million**. In comparison with 2011, Slovenia's export to Bangladesh was **EUR 0,805 million**, while the amount of imported goods came to **EUR 7,269 million**.

Bangladesh is seeking for new potential counterparts to cooperate in the framework of shipbuilding industry. For the last years, Bangladesh has been doing **successful business with the Federal Republic of Germany**. As projected, the number of ship orders is now even going to increase significantly in the upcoming months taking into consideration the fact that Germany belongs to these trading countries, where **40%** of trade is done by ships.

Bangladesh has been exporting going ocean ships since 2008, and **Ananda Shipyards** was the first local company to export its first vessel to Europe, specifically to Danish clients. When it comes to shipping, Bangladesh is known mostly as a ship-breaking nation, with **dozens of aging container vessels** heading towards its southern coast for scrap. However, in recent years, it has also emerged as a shipbuilding country. Shipbuilding yards in Bangladesh are now exporting **small and medium-sized ships for the highly competitive European market**.

Since 2008, Bangladeshi yards have manufactured and exported ferries, cargo vessels, and ocean-going multi-purpose ships worth more than **USD 500m (£ 320m)**. The vessels were built for countries including Denmark, Germany and Finland.

It's a small beginning compared with giants such as China, Japan and South Korea, but industry owners say Bangladesh will continue to grow because it has several advantages over rivals. "We have plenty of skilled manpower and our labour cost is cheaper than many other countries. On average, **ship owners can save at least 15%** of the production cost here," said Sakhawat Hossain, Managing Director of Western Marine Shipyard in Chittagong.

Following the successful cooperation with German and Danish business partners, Bangladesh Government intends to widen the range of its European counterparts and **bolster up the already excellent collaboration**. Since, Slovenia owns an **additional advantage of the Port of Koper**, which lies on the shortest transport route, linking commercial centres in Central and Eastern Europe with Mediterranean countries and the Far East, the cooperation between the two countries is also seriously considered in the near future. Sea routes from here are over 2000 nautical miles closer to these waterways than northern European ports. Land routes to the main Central European market centres reached from Koper in less than 24 hours are also around 500 km shorter. Therefore, the total amount of time saved ranges from 5 to 10 days, allowing faster receipt of goods with lower transport costs and thereby making this Slovenian port even more attractive.

Additionally, Bangladesh offers **experienced workforce skilled in shipbuilding and their maintenance**.

Garments and Textiles



Manufacture of ready-made garments in Bangladesh
Source: Internet



Textile industry in Bangladesh
Source: Internet

The phenomenal growth in the ready made garment (RMG) sector in the last decade created many new factories and employment opportunities. Having enjoyed more than 70% of total investments in the manufacturing sector during the first half of the 1990s, RMG and knitwear now account for about **4,825 factories and a workforce of 3.1 m -80% of which are women**. This sector now **employs over 50% of the industrial workforce and accounts for 79% of the total export earnings** of the country. The growing trend in the textile and the garments sector means that Bangladesh is perfectly positioned to appeal to foreign investors.

Bilateral agreements with **28 countries and Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)** of the EU are key reasons for Bangladesh RMG products having access to global markets. Bangladesh is now a **significant RMG supplier to North America and Europe**. Bangladesh has also taken a better position in the USA market through competition. Bangladesh is expected to maintain its tariff-free access to EU under the European GSP, since the GSP is not covered by the Uruguay Round Agreement. Recently **Canada has also provided tariff-free access** for all the items from Bangladesh.

In the meantime, the **Bangladesh RMG industry has become very competitive as a global standard RMG source**. Marketing investments have been made in trading partner economies; end users can often differentiate products with confidence.

Historically the Bangladesh RMG industry has depended largely on imported yarns and fabrics and produced only 10% of the export-quality cloth used by the garments industry. The need for establishment of **backward-linkage industry** has become an immediate concern to the government and the exporters and there are **enormous opportunities to set up a composite textiles industry combining textile, yarn and garments**.

The textile sector as a whole is **at present the most important sector, capable of generating maximum new employment** and the most potential sector to earn foreign exchange. The Government has undertaken to increase per capita income by boosting textile sector. Textile sector is now also contributing significantly towards GDP growth. This has been possible due to development of textile sector which comprises of Spinning, Weaving, Dyeing/Printing-Finishing (Woven & Knit) Knitting, Ready Garments (Knit & Woven), Hosiery, Handloom & other auxiliary textile units. Textile & Clothing is considered to be the largest foreign exchange earnings sector (12bn USD) surpassing the manpower sector (USD 10 billion) Bangladesh Textile Sector revolves around RMG and that is continuing.

Over the years textile proved to be the **engine of growth as it has been the 2nd largest sector for absorption of working force after agriculture**. On the other hand, textile sector in Bangladesh is **the largest single sector having highest investment around Euro 3.5 billion**. Over the last 3 decades this sector has achieved **unprecedented growth**. As such, we feel it is our obligation to take all possible initiative/steps to **protect the sector** and make the sector **more competitive** as well. Only **5%** of textile factories are **owned by foreign investors**, with most of the production being controlled by families or Bangladeshi companies.

Bangladesh was the **sixth largest exporter of apparel in the world** after China, the EU, Hong Kong, Turkey and India in **2006**. At the time, its **share in the world apparel exports was 2.8%**. Today, the US remains the largest market for Bangladesh's woven garments taking **USD 2.42 billion**, a **47% share** of Bangladesh's total woven exports. The European Union remains the largest regional destination - Bangladesh exported USD 5.36 billion in apparel; 50% of their total apparel exports. The **EU took a 61% share of Bangladeshi knitwear with USD 3.36 billion exports**. Currently, Bangladesh is the second largest ready made garments manufacturer after China. It is projected that by the next five years Bangladesh will have become the largest ready made garments manufacturer in the whole world.



Garments production in Bangladesh

Size of Bangladesh Textile Industry

Sub-sector	No. of unites	Installed machine capacity	Production capacity (m)	Manpower
Textile spinning	341	7.20 ml. spld 0.18 ml. rotor	1,600 kg	400,000
Textile weaving	400	25,000 SL/SLL	1,600 mtr	80,000
Specialized textile and power loom	1,065	23,000 SL/SLL	400 mtr	43,000
Handloom (GF/F)	148,342	498,000 handloom	837 mtr	1,020,000
Knitting, knit dyeing (GF):				
(a) Export-oriented	800	12,000 knit/Dy/M	3,600 mtr	300,000
(b) Local market	2,000	5,000 knit/M	500 mtr	24,000
Dyeing and finishing (FF):				
(a) Semi-mechanized	180	-	120 mtr	10,000
(b) Mechanized	130	-	1,600 mtr	23,000
Export oriented RMG	4,500	-	475 doz	2,000,000

Source: *Director's Report 2009, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association*

Jute industry in Bangladesh

Bangladesh holds the **2nd position as a Jute producer in the world** with the **average production of Jute 1.08 m ton/year**. More than **85%** of world production of Jute is cultivated in the Ganges Delta & having the major portion of it; Bangladesh became the **largest producer of Raw Jute or Jute Fibre in the world**. For centuries, Bangladeshi Jute had and still has demand in the international market for **higher quality fibers**. This fact makes Bangladesh the major exporter (80%+ market share) of Jute Fiber in the world; while India has nominal dominance over export of Raw Jute Fibre.

- Total average export earnings from jute & jute goods is **USD 611 million (60 lakh bales)/year**
- Average export value of raw jute is **USD 140 million**
- Capacity: **No of factories: 187**

Size of the global Jute import Market:

- The size of the global jute yarn import market is estimated at **4,50,000 tonnes**, with Bangladeshi spinners accounting for around **80% of the supply**.

Jute in Organic Fashion:

- Fabrics made of jute fibres are **carbon-dioxide neutral and naturally decomposable**. These properties are also why jute can be used in high performance technical textiles.

Jute as raw material for Paper:

- A **unique combination** of long bast and short core fibres along with lower lignine content than some other feedstock of pulp/paper makes jute suitable for a range of paper and cardboard products.
- The stem of jute/kenaf consists of two fibrous components. The bark (fibrous material) with about **2.5 mm fibre length** is suitable for quality paper making and is similar to soft wood fibres (**constitutes 25-35% by weight of stem**).
- Paper and packaging materials to be produced from Dhanicha will be **less expensive and can be recycled** after a life-cycle.
- The new technology will **save valuable bamboo, wood and jute resources** of the country which are now being used

Jute in Home Textiles:

- The core of jute (stick/woody portion) with shorter fibre of **0.9 mm length** has strength properties similar to hard wood (constitutes 60-65% by weight of stem).
- **Diversified jute products are becoming more and more valuable to the consumer today.** Among these are espadrilles, floor coverings, home textiles, high performance technical textiles, Geotextiles, composites, and more.
- Jute has many advantages as a home textile, either **replacing cotton or blending with it.** It is a **strong, durable, color and light-fast fibre.**
- Its **UV protection, sound and heat insulation, low thermal conduction and anti-static properties** make it a wise choice in home décor.

Since independence, Bangladesh's largest customer for jute products has been the **United States;** the bulk of sales has been divided fairly evenly between burlap and carpet backing. But, consistent with the global pattern, the United States market has eroded fairly steadily over the years. Sales to the United States reached a low of **USD 81.8 million in 1986** but increased again to **USD 104.5 million in 1987,** when both prices and volume rose. The market for jute sacking was assisted by the fact that some recipient countries of American food aid specified burlap for their United States imports because they had a secondary market for the bags.



Source: Internet



Source: Internet



Source: Internet

Organic Tea

Bangladesh has inherited the **southern-most slopes** of the fertile, world-famous tea growing hills rolling down from Assam commonly known as **Surma Valley.** This Valley was inhabited by wild animals a century ago before the human abodes was set up turning the rich valley slopes into tea plantations. In fact, the **first experimental tea plantation was carried out in the slopes of Chittagong in 1840 and Malinichera was the first commercial Tea Estate which went into production in 1857.**

Today, tea is the **regular export item** of Bangladesh. Export of tea to different countries by Bangladesh **witnessed substantial changes over time.** In order to cope with such changes, it is **necessary to look for new buyers and pursue an aggressive policy in the world tea market.**

At present, tea was produced in the **district of Sylhet.** Sylhet is situated in the **northeastern part** of Bangladesh. Of late, tea production has also begun in **Chittagong on the southeastern** part of Bangladesh and in **Panchagarh** that is situated on the **northwestern** part of the country. Panchagarh is near Darjeeling of India, where production of quality tea has a long history.

Production of organic tea, that is, **tea produced naturally without using chemical fertilizer** has begun in **Panchagarh.** The Kazi and Kazi Company has taken the lead in this respect. Recently, organic production of agricultural products has become very popular, as these are **free from the harmful effects of chemical fertilizer.** So, producing of organic tea in Bangladesh has gained immediate popularity and a Japanese firm has already bought the whole lot of tea in advance. Bangladesh organic tea is produced in such **puritan form that no chemical pesticide is used and mechanical vehicle is allowed.** Only carts driven by cows and horses are allowed to enter the gardens and processing areas. It appears that organic tea has a great future here. **In the developed world,** where labour is expensive and use of power driven machines is common then organic tea production is **very expensive.** So, Bangladesh can make dent into the world



Bangladeshi tea drinker



Tea plantation worker

Leather and Leather Goods

Bangladesh has a long established tanning industry which produces around **2-3% of the world's leather from a ready supply of raw materials**. The country is therefore an established and attractive location to source and outsource the manufacture of finished leather products. The leather industry is ideally suited to Bangladesh with its abundance of labor and natural resources at internationally competitive rates.

Sector Highlights:

- Flourishing in this sector are finished leather and leather goods.
- Abundant, low cost labor – ideal for labor intensive industry.
- Good quality domestic supply of raw materials, as by-products of large livestock industry.
- Government support in the form of tax holidays, duty free imports of raw materials and machinery for export-oriented leather market, export incentives.
- Tariff and quota free access to major markets such as the EU.

Industry Outlook and Investment Incentives:

- In 2008-09 total export of leather, leather goods was **\$381.14m**.
- Most of the livestock base for this production is domestic, which is estimated as comprising **1.8%** of the world's cattle stock and **3.7%** of the goat stock. The hides and skins (average annual output is 15m sq.m.) have a **good international reputation**.
- **Foreign direct investment** in this sector along with the production of tanning chemicals appears to be highly rewarding due to this presence of basic raw materials for leather goods including shoes, a large pool of low cost, trainable labor, and a tariff concession facility to major importing countries under **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** coverage. Thus Bangladesh is an ideal offshore location for leather and leather products manufacturing with low cost but high quality.
- The Government is in the process of **setting up a separate Leather Zone**, relocating the existing industry sites to a well-organised environment. Exports include some ready-made garments, although that aspect is confined mainly to a small export trade in "Italian-make" garments for the US market. **Footwear is more important in terms of value addition. This is the fast growing sector for leather products.**

Investment Opportunities and Government Support

Enormous investment opportunities exist in this sector. In the RMG industry **demand for fabric significantly exceeds local supply** and so is currently being met by imports. Backward linkage is a significant trading opportunity and is **supported by a government backed incentive: 15% cash subsidy of the fabric cost to exporters sourcing fabrics locally**.

Additionally, the Government has created a **highly favorable policy framework for investment** in these sectors offering investors the following choices:

- Establishment of **new textile/RMG mill** in the private sector
- **Joint ventures** with the existing textile/RMG mill
- **Acquisition of public sector textile mills** that are being privatised
- **Indirect investment** through financial services and/or leasing.

The Government is committed to fostering a strong spinning sector within the economy to support the robust textile and garment industry that has developed. The **government is therefore supporting spinners by providing lower tariffs for machinery spares and raw materials, cash incentives, reduced tax rate, and low-cost funding etc.**

Incentives and Facilities for the Investors

To attract foreign direct investment, the Government of Bangladesh has offered most liberal package of investment facilities and incentives, which are:

- Tax holiday, accelerated depreciation, concessionary duty on imported capital machinery, rationalization of its import duty incentives to Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs), etc.

Other incentives

- Tax exemption on royalties, technical know-how fees received by any foreign collaborator, firm, company and expert.
- Tax exemption on the interest on Foreign loans under certain conditions.
- Avoidance of double taxation in case of foreign investors on the basis of bilateral agreements.
- Exemption of income tax **up to 3 years for the foreign technicians** employed in industries specified in the relevant schedule of income tax ordinance.
- Tax exemption on income of the private sector power generation company for 15 years from the date of commercial production.
- Facilities for full repatriation of invested capital, profit & dividend.
- 6 months' multiple entry visa for the prospective new investors.
- Re-investment of repatriable dividend treated as new investment.
- Citizenship by investing a **minimum of USD 5,00,000 or by transferring USD 10,00,000** to any recognized financial institution (non-repatriable).
- Permanent residency by investing a minimum of **USD 75,000** (non-repatriable)
- Tax exemption on capital gains from the transfer of shares of public limited companies listed with a stock exchange.
- Special facilities and venture capital support will be provided to export-oriented industries under "Thrust sectors".
- There will be no discrimination in case of duties and taxes for the same type of industries set up by foreign and local investors and in the public and private sectors. Special incentives and facilities will be provided for making investment in 100 per cent export-oriented industries.

Export Processing Zones (EPZs)

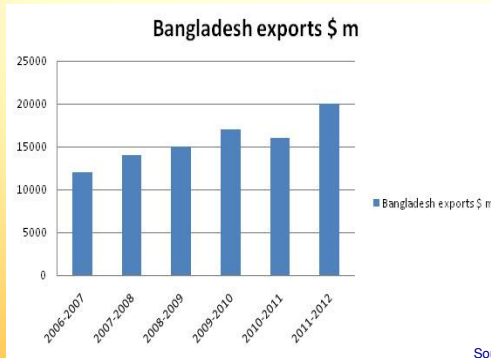
Export Processing Zones are considered by the foreign investors as an ideal location for the export oriented industries. In Bangladesh, the Export Processing Zones with necessary infrastructural facilities offer very attractive incentives. Export Processing Zones in Chittagong and Dhaka provide necessary fiscal, non-fiscal and infrastructure facilities for export-oriented enterprises. Four more Export Processing Zones in Mongla, Ishurdi, Comilla and Syedpur (Nilphamari) are under implementation. EPZ in the Private Sector is also encouraged including necessary infrastructure facilities.

Potential Sectors for Investment

The major potential sectors including '**Thrust Sectors**' identified by the Bangladesh Government, which offer probable choices for investment are: Textiles, RMG and Knitwear, Energy (Power Generation and Transmission), Natural Gas-based Industries Telecommunication, Fisheries, Agro-based Industries, Electronics, Computer Software Development and Data Entry, Leather and Leather Goods, Tourism, Light Industries.

Besides, there are other **potential areas for investment** in Bangladesh, such as: **light engineering, ceramic, dairy farming & dairy products, poultry farming & poultry products, jute goods, paper and pulp, cement, glass, sheet and plate, etc.** The government also welcomes investments in the development of port facilities and industrial parks. Most of the foreign investors consider the investment potentials in Bangladesh to be bright and many of them would like to explore further the possibilities of investments either on their own or in partnership with local entrepreneurs and the incentives for foreign investors are quite attractive. They highly appreciate the policies of the present Government of **Sheikh Hasina** for liberalization, private sector driven and market led-growth in the economy.

Bangladesh has a proven record in export competitiveness. Here is a summary of the facts. **From 2003 to 2007**, Bangladesh achieved **annual export value growth of 19.6%**, a testimony to its export competitiveness. Whilst not wishing to be complacent, and being mindful of difficult global trade conditions in **2008-2012**, these positive trade differentials are likely to be with Bangladesh well into the future.



Source: Bangladesh Government

Up to May 2012:

- Manufacturing output has seen **steady growth**, recently in double figures - Bangladesh provides significant benefits to exporters.
- Bangladesh offers a **most liberal FDI regime in South Asia**, with no prior approval requirements or limits on equity participation and repatriation of profits and income in most sectors.
- Bangladesh **enjoys tariff-free access to the EU, Canada, Australia and Japan**. Bangladesh is the top manufactured products exporter to the least developed countries as well as to Europe, with **more than 50% market share**.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

We are looking forward to receiving you in Bangladesh soon!



Source: Internet



Source: Internet



Source: Internet