

## **BANGLADESH EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION**

Speech of Mr. C.K. Hyder  
Secretary-General, Bangladesh Employers' Federation

Mr. Chair, Md. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment,  
H.E. Dr. Dora Rapold, Swiss Ambassador to Bangladesh  
Ms. Panudda Boonpala, Director, ILO Dhaka  
My friend from the Workers' side  
Distinguished participants

I thank the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Government of Bangladesh and the International Labour Organization for having invited me to address the inaugural session.

I congratulate both the Ministry and the ILO for having organized this symposium, which is due to consider an issue of immense significance to a large number of Asian countries. It is a key development issue in view of the contributions of the workers employed abroad to the region's economic growth – both for the labour exporting and importing countries. Regrettably, very little has been done for cost-effective and productive migration of the poor workers. Lack of infrastructural support, high transactional costs, pervasive information gaps of recruitment procedures, mismatch between the demand and supply of skills needed for employment, etc lead to unfair employment contracts with the resultant harassment and exploitation of the workers. As a result, it has not been possible to fully harness the economic benefits of the overseas workers both for the labour exporting and importing countries.

On the other hand, with the World Bank having recently described overseas deployment of workers as the 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar of globalization – trade and capital flows being the other two – the issue has become of greater significance.

Temporary employment as provided in the temporary movement of natural persons of Mode 4 under the framework of General Agreement on Trade in Services is due to open up greater opportunities for job seekers. The Asian countries having surplus labour should, therefore, give more attention to the related issues I feel that it will also be in the interest of the concerned countries if the arrangements can be made for the transparent and fool-proof employment procedures with firmer checks on illegal immigrants. For the larger interest of the migrant workers, these issues should be discussed more closely between the countries of origin and destination.

Economic, political, and demographic factors indicate that temporary migration of workers will be more predominant in the coming years. To ensure fair deals, there should be more systematic discussions on the relevant issues under the auspices of the ILO which is well-known to its tripartite approach.

I hope that these issues will be discussed in greater detail in the plenary sessions.

I thank you all.