Greetings from Bangladesh—a country which is home to over 164 million people making it the eighth most populous country in the world.

According to the Bangladesh Youth Policy, a “youth” is defined as anyone between the ages of 18-35. Over 38 per cent of the Bangladeshi population fall into this age range which constitutes over 53 million in number. Of these, half of them are female and 70 per cent live in rural areas (BBS, 2003). Bangladesh has a high poverty rate and the overall unemployment rate is 5.1 per cent while the underemployment rate is 40 per cent. Many people especially, youth, are fond of going abroad in search for jobs. The Middle East, Malaysia, Singapore, and Italy are often the top choices, but these workers often receive low remunerations due to the mismatch of skills and experience. There are however huge opportunities in-country in the agricultural field, particularly for those interested in self-employment.

Recently, some policy related advancements have been put in place to promote decent work such as the: Child Labour Elimination Policy (2010), National Education Policy (2010), Skills Development Policy (drafted but not yet endorsed), Child Policy (2011), and the Bangladesh Labour Law (2006) which is the latest Labor Act. In March 2001, the Government also ratified the ILO Convention No. 182. These are all indications of the continued stride towards decent work for all in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a beautiful green country and people here are very friendly. We are proud of our rich culture and heritage. We hope you will have a chance to visit one day.