

Selima Ahmad, BWCCI President won The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Prize for Women's Contribution to Development in 2012



Assessment report published identifying key constraints and opportunities for women entrepreneurs in two major business areas-access to finance and access to market



BWCCI hailed allocation of BDT 1 billion for women entrepreneurs in the national budget 2012-13

Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BWCCI) welcomed the allocation of BDT 1 Billion (USD12.5 Million) made in the national budget 2012-13 for women entrepreneurship development for which BWCCI has been advocating since 2006. The announcement came from the Finance minister in the



couple of days of the 'Roundtable meeting on national budget 2012-13 and women entrepreneurs' that was organized by BWCCI on 24 May, 2012 under PRODIG program funded by USAID and implemented by the Asia Foundation.



Successful women entrepreneurs honored by BWCCI through Progressive Award 2011

As a continuation of the chamber's effort to encourage and promote women entrepreneurs of the country, BWCCI honored seven women entrepreneurs from seven divisions last year for attaining in their businesses in 2011. Two media representatives were also awarded for their contribution in women entrepreneurship development. Commerce Minister Ghulam Muhammed Quader handed over a trophy, certificate and BDT 10,000 to each awardee at a ceremony, BWCCI-EBL Progressive Award-2011, in Dhaka on May 29, 2012.



To reach out to more women entrepreneurs across the country, BWCCI has taken up membership campaign initiative. Last year four membership

campaigns were held in Jessore, Sunamganj, Comilla and Chanpainawabganj where a large number of women entrepreneurs attended and showed their interest in BWCCI.



7th AGM of BWCCI held: New office bearers of BWCCI elected for 2012-14



and business network skills, BWCCI organize in 2012. Through participating in these fairs, we gain knowledge about diversified product, market but also were able to meet potential buyers.

member of BWCCI's 7th AGM (AGM) on 29 May 2012 at the Dhaka Convention Center, Dhaka. The AGM was attended by members across the country. The AGM was presided over by the President of the BWCCI, Mrs. Farhatun-
Nissa. The AGM was a success and the members elected for 2012-14. The BWCCI is a leading organization which

enthusiasm and upholding the commitment of being a leader of broad based economic development in Bangladesh for business women and industrialists.

BWCCI's Advocacy: to create enabling environment for WEs

Advocacy for reformation in the policies and for ensuring implementation of existing policies to create an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs is one of BWCCI's prime focuses. To accelerate BWCCI's advocacy initiatives for bringing gender responsive regulation and policy reform, 7 advocacy teams in 7 divisions are set up. Through 31 advocacy meetings in 2012, these groups have been actively pushing forward the Chamber's advocacy efforts at the local level while at the national



and board directors has conducted dialogues with key policy makers at different times with the same end in view.

Engaging MPs to enhance women entrepreneurship development

BWCCI launched "Proactive Engagement of Members of Parliament to Enhance Women Entrepreneurship Development Through Policy/ Legislative Support" on 21 April, 2012 with the cooperation of PRODIP program funded by USAID and

by the Asia Foundation. The goal of this project is to strengthen the capacity of MPsto perform their representation, oversight and legislative functions by focusing on women entrepreneurship



Sensitizing Bank & PFI officials through Orientation

Knowing that sensitization of relevant stakeholders is crucial to women entrepreneurship development; BWCCI always puts great effort in it. As one of the chamber's major working area is facilitating women entrepreneurs' access to finance, so last year BWCCI organized 7 PFI orientations in four different districts and 1 sharing meeting with SME Heads of different banks and PFIs to sensitize them on gender responsive rules and regulations in relation to women entrepreneurship development. Representatives from Bangladesh Bank were also present during those events which were held under "Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh"



BWCCI launched new logo

On 5 December, 2012, BWCCI's new logo was formally unveiled by Minister of Industries DilipBarua and Canadian High Commissioner Heather Cruden during a seminar entitled "Women Entrepreneurs: Advancing



National seminar on 'Climate-resilient Initiatives for Rural Woman Entrepreneurs' Held

BWCCI organized a national seminar on 'Climate-resilient Initiatives for Rural Woman Entrepreneurs' at the city's CIRDAP auditorium where Environment and Forest Minister Hasan Mahmud was present as the Chief guest. In the event, chamber President Selima Ahmad emphasized on the need for women's more active participation in the further negotiations and in the decision making on climate policy as well as adaptation and mitigation activities. She urged government to undertake projects to build climate resilient capacities of women entrepreneurs in disaster prone areas and create market linkages for them so that they could continue their economic activities by adapting to climate change.

Capacity building trainings for women entrepreneurs

19 capacity building trainings were organized by BWCCI last year to develop entrepreneurship and management skills of women entrepreneurs. Among these, 12 were held under "Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh" project funded by ADB and 6 trainings under Skillful project whereas 1 under "Promoting the Sustainability of Women's Business Advocacy (PSWEA)" project.



Sharing Session with MPs on key constraints and opportunities for women entrepreneurs

Based on the findings of the assessment report on ‘Constraints and opportunities of women entrepreneurs in relation to access to finance and in access to market’, sharing sessions with MPs were held by BWCCI under the PRODIP project to share with the MPs about the identified challenges, gap of existing legislation in relation to women entrepreneurship development and find out way forward.

Resource library at BWCCI Hotline Center

A resource library has been established in the Hotline center operated by BWCCI from where women entrepreneurs can borrow different business related books to improve their entrepreneurial knowledge. The Hotline center provide information to women entrepreneurs on specific issues of business; referral service to the public and private institutions responsible for providing services to women entrepreneurs; and access to BWCCI advocacy and institutional support.



Selima Ahmad, founder president of BWCCI, seen with Bill Clinton, former US president, at the eighth annual meeting of Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), 2012 in New York



BWCCI Team during an Exposure Visit to India on Sep 2013 to share ideas about women entrepreneurship



Newly elected office bearers of BWCCI met with Honorable Commerce Minister Ghulam Muhammed Quader, MP on 3 October 2012.

Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Gulshan Grace, Apt#2C (1st Floor), House#8, Block-CWS(C)
South Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka 1212

880-2-9861526 880-2-9841296

womenchamber.office@gmail.com

website: www.bwcci-bd.org

FOLLOW US

on



