

President, BWCCI, Ms. Selima Ahmad has received the internationally acclaimed **Oslo Business for Peace Award 2014** for maintaining commitment to social responsibility and ethical values.



This was a great achievement for Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry. She was given the award amidst a special function on May 15th, 2014 in the City Hall, Oslo; the same auspicious venue where the Nobel Peace Prize is presented every year. This award is considered the highest form of recognition given to individual business leaders for fostering peace and stability through creating shared value between business and society.

UNFPA & BWCCI Confront SRHR in Bangladesh

One of BWCCI's proudest achievements this year is partnering with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on a project entitled "Economic opportunities and sexual & reproductive health and rights – a pathway to empowering girls and women in Bangladesh". BWCCI has been implementing this project and working for women, particularly the marginalized, to empower them with increased access to income by providing information on sexual and reproductive health rights. BWCCI and UNFPA see a direct correlation between a woman's success in the public sector and her position in the private sector. This project running in 3 districts of Bangladesh looks to address the power imbalance within the country by acknowledging the relationship between economic empowerment and the increased access to and utilization of information and services related to sexual and reproductive health rights.



Project signing ceremony

Renewable Energy Initiative in Hatiya

In the year 2014, BWCCI has partnered with the Asian Development Bank with the goal of increasing employment and livelihood opportunities for poor women in the renewable energy sector towards their economic empowerment. With clean energy initiatives as one of the Asian Development Bank's top priorities, BWCCI has joined them in implementing a ten month project which was completed by June 2014, to train approximately 400 participants in the area of Hatiya, Bangladesh. BWCCI planned to enable poor women's participation in the renewable sector, specifically on ways to adopt renewable energy sources and improving access to energy in remote regions through the introduction of non-traditional biomass fuel for cooking.

9th AGM of BWCCI held: New office bearers of BWCCI elected for 2014-16



Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry's 7th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Election was held on 29 May 2012 at Multipurpose Hall, Diploma Engineer's Institute, Kakrail, Dhaka with the participation of the chamber members from across the country. as the new President of the women chamber for 2012-14. Selima Ahmad, President of BWCCI presided over the meeting which ended with lots of

BWCCI's Advocacy: to create enabling environment for WEs

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



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

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 implemented

Resource library at BWCCI Hotline Center



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.

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

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.

Sensitizing Bank & PFI officials through Orientation

On 5 December, 2012, BWCCI’s new logo was formally unveiled by Minister of Industries Dilip Barua and Canadian High Commissioner Heather Ruden during a seminar entitled “Women Entrepreneurs: Advancing Bangladesh Economy”. BWCCI Board directors were also present

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.



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