

## Opening Remarks

Hon'ble Minister for Finance  
Hon'ble Advisor to the Prime Minister  
Secretary ERD and the Chair of this Plenary  
Secretaries of Ministries and Division  
Representatives of Development Partners,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalam-o-Alikum and Good Morning!

On behalf of the Government of Bangladesh, it is my pleasure to welcome colleagues from Asian partner countries, friends from the development partner community, the Civil Society Organizations, other participants from home and abroad to this **Asia Workshop on Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation: Links to the Post-2015 Development Agenda**.

I will try to set the scene in a few minutes: a background to the run-up to this workshop. Busan marked a new defining moment in international development cooperation. The decolonization of Asia and Africa in the 1950s and the 1960s also marked the beginning of aid and assistance to the newly independent states. Aid was triggered more by a relentless pursuit by the two superpowers to win allies rather than genuine development concerns for these new states. The dole-outs were not targeted and not result-oriented. They fizzled out and very little of them trickled to the poor. Half a century elapsed in feeble attempts, development opportunity lost, Africa remained in the dark and Asia continued to home of the world's poor.

The demise of the Soviet Union, the rise of China, India, Brazil and other emerging countries at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century offered new promise to Asia and Africa, signaling a new rebalancing of global wealth and power. The Millennium Development Goals (2000), the Monterrey Consensus (2002), the Rome Declaration (2003), Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), the Accra Agenda of Action (2008)--- all these culminated in a new watershed in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in 2011. All these steps towards Busan, were truly giant leaps in our course to take mankind out of scourge of poverty and hunger. The Millennium Development Declaration set the

goals and targets, the Monterrey Consensus identified the resource gap underscoring need for scaled-up Official Development Aid--- the 8<sup>th</sup> MDG goal. The series of high level meetings in Rome, Paris, and Accra perfected on the ways to make aid more effective. Our agreement on harmonization, transparency, accountability, predictability, the greater application of country system in the use of aid, to which both the donors and recipients concurred, helped in powering aid as an effective tool for development.

In 2011, the Busan High Level Forum had added new dynamics and forces in partnering development cooperation. The south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation gained significant momentum. The rebalancing of wealth in favour of emerging nations, their emergence out of the global economic crisis broadly unscathed, offered to them opportunity and resources for sharing the responsibility of development. At Busan, they were recognised as integral part of a new and a more inclusive agenda. At the same breath the civil society organisations and the private sector were welcome to exercise their roles as independent development actors on the basis of shared principles and differential commitments.

A very strong focus is cast on development results, recognised as critically important for effective aid delivery. A global action plan to enhancing capacity to monitor progress, evaluate impact and ensure sound result-focused management continue to glow brightly on our development radar. Measurability is key a management dictum. If you cannot measure, you cannot manage. We have a presentation in the breakout session as to how partner Asian countries, including Bangladesh, are addressing this issue.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The aim of the workshop is to discuss implementation of the Global Partnership and enhance development cooperation particularly in the context of transitioning from the Millennium Development Goals to a Post-2015 Development Agenda. The workshop would try to put together from the deliberations a Common Plan of

Action for Asia in line with the principles of GPEDC. This forum will also witness launch of Asia-Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The global economic downturn had struck us at a wrong time. The developed countries took the blow directly while its impact, by way of depleted external aid volumes, strayed away many countries of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa from their chartered road to achieving MDGs.

The tenure of the Millennium Development Goals comes to an end exactly 2 years 4 months and 6 days from today. Countries of Asia are at various stages of achievement, but all are in the seamless pursuit of hitting the MDGs. Some have achieved many goals; some have achieved quite a few and some still fewer.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have entered the slog hours in this race to development. The dash to the goals must not be slowed under any circumstances rather momentum scaled up to hit the goals or at least to reach their nearest points. Beyond 2015, a new race will be on the way. That extra innings will be for completing the unfinished task of wiping out remaining human disgrace: poverty and hunger must leave from the face of the earth. And that will bring ultimate victory to mankind, culminating in what President Jim Kim of the WB called for "bending the arc of history". Indeed, over half a century ago, when poverty, hunger and illiteracy seethed the world, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reiterated the same truism saying that: "The arc of history is long but it bends towards justice".