



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগ  
শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।  
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## Media Release

### Experts Call for an Amendment of Patent Law to Ensure Smooth Transition for Pharma Industry after LDC Graduation

**Dhaka, 10 August 2022:** The Bangladesh Patent Law 2022 should be amended in line with the changing scenario for the local pharmaceutical industry after the country's LDC graduation, experts said at a seminar in the capital today. Simultaneously, they called for close collaboration between the concerned government agencies and the private sector in the amendment process. Such observation came during a seminar on 'Preparedness of Pharmaceutical Sector for LDC Graduation' jointly organized by Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP) of Economic Relations Division (ERD) and Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) in the capital today.

Hon'ble Adviser to the Prime Minister on Private Industry and Investment Mr. Salman F. Rahman was the chief guest of the seminar. Secretary of the Ministry of Industries Ms. Zakia Sultana, Chairperson of BUILD Ms. Nihad Kabir and the President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Mr. Rizwan Rahman attended the event as special guests. ERD Secretary Ms. Sharifa Khan chaired the seminar.

The burgeoning pharmaceutical sector of Bangladesh has witnessed exponential growth over the last few decades. The TRIPS waiver for least developed countries (LDCs) under the WTO-TRIPS agreement is one of the key drivers of such impressive growth. The industry has strong potential to accelerate its growth and create a bold footprint in the global market. Appropriate measures following an action-oriented roadmap are critical to tapping these opportunities and shielding against the erosion of waivers under the TRIPS agreement in the wake of the LDC graduation of Bangladesh in November 2026. In this context, the seminar was organized to take stock of the initiatives and preparedness that are already underway to address the challenges of the loss of TRIPS waivers.

Hon'ble Adviser to the Prime Minister Mr. Salman F. Rahman, in his speech, called for engaging lobbyist firm in the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the continuation of TRIPS waiver for Bangladesh after graduation. He also emphasized the quick operationalization of API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) parks. He called for immediate closure of the mailbox system, created back in 2008 for submitting patent applications, as the mailbox system has lost its relevance in the present context.

ERD Secretary Ms. Sharifa Khan, in her speech, called for a stronger partnership between the public and private sector for preparing the pharmaceutical industry for the post-graduation phase.

Secretary of the Ministry of Industries Ms. Zakia Sultana, in her speech, assured that the government would work in close collaboration with the private sector in amending the current patent law of the country.



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Speaking during the event, President of BAPI Mr. Nazmul Hassan, MP said that the issues of affordability and public health should be taken into consideration while granting patent under the patent law of the country.

Ms. Nihad Kabir, in her speech, emphasized on enhancing the country's legal expertise for effective formulation and implementation of the intellectual property rights related provisions.

President of DCCI Mr. Rizwan Rahman said that the government should set up "Biotech Park" and "Genome Valley" to facilitate biotechnological research. He also called for giving incentives to pharmaceutical sector like RMG sector.

Senior Vice President of Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (BAPI) & Managing Director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Mr. Abdul Muktadir, in his presentation, called for negotiating with WTO for extending the TRIPS transition period relating to pharmaceutical products for Bangladesh until 01 January 2033, even if the country graduates from the LDC status.

Professor of the Department of Law of the University of Dhaka Dr. Mohammad Towhidul Islam, in his presentation, said that Bangladesh may request the WTO for country-specific TRIPS waiver for Bangladesh.

Mr. Farid Aziz, Additional Secretary of ERD and Project Director of SSGP welcomed the participants, while Ms. Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD gave the vote of thanks on the occasion.

Representatives from BAPI, high level officials of leading pharmaceutical companies as well as key stakeholders across the government, private sector, and think-tank participated in the event.

**End**

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