

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Finance  
Economic Relations Division  
World Bank-4 Branch  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.  
[www.erd.gov.bd](http://www.erd.gov.bd)

Press Release

Today on 05 November 2017 at 11:00 am a Financing Agreement of US\$ 100.00 Million has been signed between the Government of Bangladesh and the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) to implement the "Export Competitiveness for Jobs Project". The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Commerce.

Kazi Shofiqul Azam, Secretary, Economic Relations Division and Mr. Qimiao Fan, Country Director of the World Bank, Dhaka Office signed the Agreement on behalf of their respective sides. Senior officials of the Government and the World Bank were present at the ceremony.

The objective of the Project is to contribute to export diversification and more and better jobs in targeted sectors. This will be achieved through enhancing growth and competitiveness through removing constraints of Leather and Leather goods, Footwear, Electronics and machinery and Plastics sectors in which Bangladesh has a demonstrated comparative advantage. The project will be implemented through the following components:

**Component 1: Market Access Support Program:** This component will support private sector firms to gain access to international markets and integrate with global value chains (sector-level environmental, social and quality ("ESQ") awareness, market branding etc.).

**Component 2: Productivity Enhancement Program:** Establishment of four (4) functional technology centers to support the sector to meet product quality requirement of buyers through eliminating existing constraints (mold making, Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine, design and pattern making, testing, calibration etc.).

**Component 3: Public Investment Facility for Infrastructure Constraints:** This component will finance to develop selective infrastructure (improving access roads, establishing common recycling management facilities, cooling / storage facilities, common service facilities etc.) that are essential for the improvement of the sectors.

**Component 4: Project Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation:** This component will finance the cost of the Project management activities.

The loan will be received in standard terms and conditions of IDA, which includes 0.75% service charge on disbursed amount. The repayment period of the loan is 38 years including 6 years grace period, Commitment Fee is 0.50% on un-disbursed amount. The project will be implemented for the period July 2017 to June 2023.

  
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