

**Remarks by  
Dr. Atchaka Sibunruang  
Secretary General  
Thailand Board of Investment  
at the  
*Board of Investment of Bangladesh*  
Bangladesh  
21 June 2011**

Secretary General,  
Executives of the Board,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thailand BOI and our colleagues from the Thai business community who are with us today, I would like to thank you for the warm welcome you have given to us. Let me also thank you for kindly organizing this meeting and thank each of you for attending.

This mission is comprised of 25 Thai Business people from 16 companies, in industries such as garment, steel piping, machinery and petroleum. The rest of our team consists of BOI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Thai-Bangladesh Business Council. The objective of our mission is to study the investment opportunities for business expansion for Thai companies in Bangladesh.

As you are all no doubt aware, business relations between our two countries are growing. Trade between Thailand and Bangladesh in 2010 was valued at US\$910 million (exports US\$886/imports US\$24), a 28% increase over the previous year.

The trend for this year shows continuing improvement, as trade between Thailand and Bangladesh in the first four months of the year, at US\$466 million,

is already more than half of the total bilateral trade in all of 2010. We at BOI hope to see that level of trade increase even more.

Already investments have been made in Bangladesh by such leading Thai companies as CP (animal feed), Italian-Thai (construction) and Bangkok Cable (electric wire). On the other hand, there are two Bangladeshi companies already setting up a company in Thailand under BOI promotion. They are Mega Textile Industries, Ltd. (textile) and Super Particles Thailand Co. Ltd. (chemicals). Another company has been approved by the BOI which is involved in filling and packing food machines.

But there is so much more room to increase both trade and investment. The business and trade opportunities within the Asia region are immense. As members of the BIMSTEC agreement, Thailand is committed to expanding the full potential of intra-regional trade. In Bangladesh, we feel that we have a good friend, a willing and potential investment partner.

At the BOI, we established a South Asia desk in 2005, which includes Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. We also organize 5 – 6 missions to this region each year, with promoting Thai overseas investment in the region as one of its major goals.

There is much more that I could add about how important investment between our two countries is, but I think at this time I'll let the individual representatives from Thai companies speak with you about their interests in Bangladesh.

Let me also just quickly add that in Thailand this coming November, we are hosting the BOI Fair 2011. This is the largest industrial exhibition in Southeast Asia and a good opportunity to see for yourselves about Thai business. I would

like to invite the BOI Bangladesh to organize a mission so Bangladeshi investors can see all we have to offer. The BOI Thailand can arrange a business briefing as well as business matching for you.

We look forward to continuing and strengthening our cooperation with you to our mutual benefit.

Thank you.

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In the event that introduction of Mission Member is needed:

Together with me, we have:

Mr Mingpant Chayavichitsilp, President of the Thailand Bangladesh Business Council

Mr Songsak Limbayen, Deputy Secretary General and Head of South Asia Desk,

Dr. Bonggot Anuroj, Director of the BOI Marketing Bureau and Deputy Head of the South Asia Desk,

Mr. Nageen Arora, our advisor to the BOI South Asia Desk, and

four BOI staff members and one representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I would like to invite the members of the Thai private sector to introduce themselves to you after Mr. Mingpant makes a few remarks...