

---

## INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT SUMMIT (IIS) 2021

### Bangabandhu's Shonar Bangla: A Land of Limitless Opportunities

#### CONCEPT NOTE

##### CONTEXT

The dream of *Shonar Bangla* - a land of peace and prosperity - which has propelled the phenomenal growth of the Bangladesh economy was first envisioned by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He took the helm of a nation ravaged by war after leading the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. He established a far-sighted and progressive policy framework to rebuild infrastructure, revive the industrial economy, improve institutional efficiency & profitability, and create a global alliance by utilizing ideas and innovations from across the world. His unique policy vision continues to be realized by the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is now leading Bangladesh towards its future as a developed nation. *Biniyog Bikash* or investment development is one of her Top-10 Special Initiatives. On the occasion of *Mujib 100*, the birth centennial of the Father of the Nation, her Government is moving towards achieving goals that are deeply ingrained in the people's development aspirations.

Bangladesh has emerged as one of the world's economic success stories and a promising frontier market. The Goldman Sachs classified it among the Next 11 emerging economies, and at present, it is the 40<sup>th</sup> largest in the world in nominal GDP terms. The economy grew at an admirable rate of 8.15% in FY2019, and has been growing at a robust rate of over 7% on average over the last decade. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy experienced positive growth of 3.51% in FY2020 and 5.47% in FY2021. Bangladesh is listed among the most resilient countries in the face of the pandemic adversities. At present, Bangladesh is confidently targeting 7.2% economic growth for FY2022. Bangladesh achieved the threshold for attaining a lower middle-income status in 2015. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the country has secured the final recommendation of the United Nations' Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and it is all set to graduate out of Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has commended Bangladesh for continuing its strong development trajectory and for marching ahead of other South Asian countries in terms of its ranking on the Inclusive Development Index (IDI), GDP growth rate and other human development achievements.

The Government of Bangladesh acknowledges the vast contributions of the private sector and is committed to establishing a more conducive investment climate to uphold and grow the business

community. In 2019, the country became a Top-20 improver of the World Bank's Doing Business index. Bangladesh has also embraced digital transformation. The country operationalized an online and interoperable One Stop Service for investor services of multiple agencies to enable easy and contactless G2B service delivery. Moreover, the Government's digital inclusion strategy aims to promote the uptake of mobile money and other digital payment platforms.

Existing investors have reaped the ample advantages of operating in Bangladesh. The macroeconomic stability, large domestic market, access to international markets, and availability of skilled labor and manufacturing base have driven high profitability for corporations. Business confidence is well-reflected by the substantial re-investment of earnings by foreign direct investors, which was 63.7% in FY2020. Also, according to a study by JETRO, 70.3% of the Japanese companies in Bangladesh looking to expand in next 1 to 2 years.

Bangladesh - a land of limitless investment opportunities - continues to demonstrate itself as a resilient economy and society. The Government looks forward to welcoming more investors to enjoy its unbounded advantages.

## OBJECTIVE

The objectives of IIS 2021 are to promote Bangladesh as one of the world's most profitable investment destinations and to attract private investment for Bangladesh. By effectively engaging with in-person and virtual attendees, the summit will promote Bangladesh as an ideal destination for private investments, including Foreign Direct Investments (FDI).

## KEY FOCUS

The key focus of the Summit are as follows:

- ***Demonstrating the policy reform progress and reiterating the Government's commitment to establishing a more pro-private sector business environment.*** A number of policy reforms have been undertaken to provide further regulatory support for businesses. Also, a high-level Taskforce at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is working to design and implement more facilities for existing and potential investors.
- ***Displaying the readiness of serviced lands, zones (EZs/EPZs), parks (hi-tech parks) and public private partnerships (PPP) for planned investment growth.***
- ***Highlighting and informing on Bangladesh's readiness to facilitate quality FDI/technology/know-how into strategic and innovative spaces,*** including infrastructure, long-term finance, and new sectors, such as telecom and skills-intensive manufacturing.
- ***Exhibiting the large and growing market size to investors.*** The domestic market consists of 160 million consumers, with a growing middle-income and affluent class. The country is also strategically located and provides access to key international markets consisting of 3

billion consumers – China, India and the ASEAN.

- ***Displaying the economic resilience and fast recovery from the adversities of the COVID-19 pandemic.*** GoB announced stimulus support worth BDT 1 trillion for the private sector, without discriminating between local and foreign investors. The Bangladesh economy has re-opened, in adherence with new-normal protocols.
- ***Showcasing the competitive edge gained by investors*** that includes macroeconomic stability, availability of skilled and competitive labor market, accessibility to serviced industrial land, growing logistical and infrastructure support, and business-friendly regulatory regime.
- ***Assuring the Government's support in realizing potential investment commitments –*** MoUs/LoIs/EoIs signing.

## OUTCOMES

IIS 2021 will generate investment leads and investment opportunities from foreign and domestic investors through targeted promotion.

## PARTNERS

IIS 2021 is being organized by BIDA with guidance from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and in association with fellow IPAs - Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) and Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA). The International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group is the lead supporting agency providing technical assistance for an impactful summit. In addition, more local and international partners are being on-boarded as associate partners, including the World Economic Forum (WEF), World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), relevant GoB Ministries and agencies facilitating investments, selected Bangladesh High Commissions and Embassies, local and foreign business chambers and associations, and relevant civil societies, academic & corporate bodies, development partners and media partners.

## STRUCTURE

IIS 2021 will be held on Nov 28 and Nov 29, 2021. Both in-person and virtual participation will be facilitated by BIDA. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina MP will inaugurate IIS 2021. She will join the Opening Ceremony virtually from Gonobhaban, her official residence. The Hon'ble Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP will deliver the closing remarks. The structure of the summit is as below:

- **Part A: Economic Resilience and Competitiveness**

The plenary and parallel session under this theme will present the country's resilience and overall competitive advantages for investors, including the pro-private sector regime and incentives/facilities for all. Three specific themes are:

- Investment Competitiveness and Business Environment: *Reaching New Heights in the New Normal*

- Economic Zones: *Exceeding All Expectations*
- Legal infrastructure (TBD)

## Part B: Sectoral Investment Opportunities

The technical parallel sessions under this theme highlight private investment opportunities in key Bangladeshi sectors and demonstrate the potential for substantial value addition. These are:

1. Ready Made Garments and Textiles: *Weaving the Way*
2. Electrical and Electronics Manufacturing: *Ride the Current*
3. Leather and Leather Accessories: *Step it up*
4. Agribusiness: *Growth by Nature*
5. Health and Pharmaceuticals: *Affordable wellbeing: Healthy Living for All*
6. Capital Market: *Charge Ahead*
7. Financial Services: *Guaranteed Growth*
8. Transport and Logistics: *The Right Move*
9. Power, Energy and PPP opportunities: *Charge Ahead/Accelerate Quality*
10. 4th IR: *New Avenues for Innovative Investments*
11. Blue Economy: *Discover the Future*

*Note: Green and sustainable investment plans will be prioritized in all sectors.*

## TARGET COUNTRIES

The countries that will be targeted through IIS 2021 are as follows:

1. Japan
2. South Korea
3. Singapore
4. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR)
5. China
6. United Kingdom
7. Netherlands
8. Saudi Arabia
9. United Arab Emirates
10. India
11. Turkey
12. Thailand
13. Malaysia
14. Uzbekistan
15. United States of America

## IIS 2021: Agenda

<b>Day-1</b>	<b>Nov 28, 2021</b>	<b>Brief summary</b>
--------------	---------------------	----------------------

Duration	Activity
10:00am to 11:35pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inauguration Ceremony</b></li> </ul>
01:00pm to 2:00pm-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lunch &amp; Prayer</b></li> </ul>
2:00 pm- 3:15 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Investment Competitiveness and Business Environment: <i>Reaching New Heights in the New Normal</i></b> – Plenary</li> </ul>
3:15pm to 3:30pm	<b>Tea</b>
3:30pm to 4:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Economic Zones: <i>Exceeding All Expectations</i></b> – Parallel</li> <li>• <b>Blue Economy: <i>Discover the future</i></b> – Parallel</li> </ul>
4:45 pm to 5:45pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Leveraging 4th IR: <i>New avenues for innovative investment</i></b> – Parallel</li> <li>• <b>Health &amp; Pharmaceuticals: <i>Affordable Wellbeing: Healthy Living for all</i></b> – Parallel</li> </ul>
5:45pm to 6:00pm	<b>Prayer Break</b>
6:00pm to 7:00pm	<b>Business Networking and Tea</b>
7:00pm to 9:00pm	<b>Dinner and cultural program</b>

Day-2

Nov 29, 2021

Brief summary

Activity	
10:00am to 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Financial Services:</b> <i>Guaranteed Growth</i> – Parallel</li><li>• <b>Transport and Logistics:</b> <i>The Right Move</i> – Parallel</li></ul>
11:00am to 11:15am	<b>Tea</b>
11:15am to 12:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Capital Market:</b> <i>The Rising Tiger</i> – Parallel</li><li>• <b>Power, Energy and PPP:</b> <i>Charge Ahead</i> – Parallel</li></ul>
12:30pm to 01:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30pm to 2:45pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Legal infrastructure:</b> <i>TBD</i></li></ul>
3:00pm to 4:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Agribusiness:</b> <i>Growth by Nature</i> – Parallel</li><li>• <b>Leather and leather goods:</b> <i>Step it Up</i> – Parallel</li></ul>
	<b>Tea</b>
4:15pm to 5:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ready Made Garments and Textiles:</b> <i>Weaving the Way</i> – Parallel</li><li>• <b>Electrical and Electronics Manufacturing:</b> <i>Ride the Current</i> – Parallel</li></ul>
5:45pm to 7:30pm	<b>Media briefing &amp; Closing ceremony</b>
7:30pm to 8:30pm	<b>Dinner</b>