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**REMARKS
BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA**

**WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH
SALES CENTER AND SHOWROOM
LAUNCHING CEREMONY**

**Hashim Tower, Tejgaon, Dhaka
July 5, 2013**

The Honorable Minister of Industries Mr. Dilip Barua

The Honorable Begum Raushan Ershad, MP

The Honorable Faridunnahar Laily, MP

The Honorable Rasheda Begum Hira, MP

Former President, FBCCI, Mr. A.K. Azad

President of Women Entrepreneur Association of Bangladesh, organizer of today's event,
and good friend Ms Nasreen Fatema Awal

Most especially, all of you women entrepreneurs from across Bangladesh

Asalaam 'malaikum and good afternoon

Builders ...

I look out upon a sea of builders ...

I see the builders of the New Bangladesh, the Golden Bangladesh...

I see the builders who will forge Bangladesh into a middle income country with an
improved quality of life for all citizens.

I look upon women entrepreneurs ... builders all.

I know well of what I speak.

I began my work in developing countries 43 years ago, when I lived and worked in the
villages of Nepal.

Subsequently, I served for two and one-half years as a Peace Corps Volunteer living in villages of then Zaire (now Democratic Republic of the Congo), working with farmers on improving chicken production.

My entire 32-year career as a diplomat has been in the emerging world.

Along the way I have learned a couple of key lessons ... and let me share with you the most important one:

If you want to support meaningful development, if you want to make lasting, sustainable change, ...

...then you must work with the women.

This is true ...

... I have seen this everywhere I've lived and worked ...

... Zaire, Zambia, Angola, Nepal, Pakistan, India and, of course, Bangladesh ...

... in each of these countries, women – you --- are the key to making a lasting, meaningful difference.

That's the bottom line: development is about women.

Women, women/you – builders of family ...

Women/you – builders of community...

Women/you – builders of nations ...

Women entrepreneurs/you showing the way ...

That is what we are celebrating today ... women, the power of women, the power of women to work with women so they can build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities.

Today we launch a showroom and training center ... created by women to enable women entrepreneurs to sell their products ...

What a grand occasion ...

What a celebration of the power of women ...

As I crisscross Bangladesh from Tetulia to Teknaf, from Sylhet to Satkhira ... everywhere I go, I see women like you at work, building, building, always building ...

Everywhere ... women entrepreneurs ... building ...

... the woman who makes and sells gooti fertilizer to her farmer neighbors ...

... the woman who set up a business to revive traditional weaving ...

... the woman who took out a micro-loan to buy a single sewing machine and now has a small business with half a dozen machines offering jobs to women in her village ...

... the woman who bought a cow and now owns a herd of cows that supplies fresh milk to her village ...

... the woman who grew a single rented room for workers at a nearby factory into a large hostel for the workers ...

... the woman who uses a laptop computer on her dining room table to do high-tech business ...

The list goes on and on ...

... but I think I have made my point ...

... women, women entrepreneurs, you and millions of women across Bangladesh like you are building this nation.

Your success as women entrepreneurs is so impressive, your accomplishments so outstanding, that America selected Bangladesh as the host last December for a great conference of women entrepreneurs from throughout all of South Asia and even parts of Central Asia ... huge recognition of Bangladesh's leading role in empowering women.

I am pleased that America is playing its part in working with women, Bangladeshi women.

All of our development programs in Bangladesh ... health, family planning, food security, climate change, economic growth, democracy and good governance ... all these programs have a special focus on women.

As I close, I wish each of you great success as you undertake your various enterprises.

As you put your entrepreneurial skills to work, I hope that you always remember that you are building more than an enterprise ... you are building your family, your community, your nation.

You must be so proud.

Thank you

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**As prepared for delivery*