

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-885-55-00

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



REMARKS BY

U.S. AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA AT THE MUCHAI COMPRESSOR INAUGURATION CEREMONY

**HABIGANJ
APRIL 30, 2012**

Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Honorable Energy Advisor Dr. Tawfik Elahi Chowdhury

Honorable Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Syed
Ashraful Islam

Dr. Mansur, Chairman of Petrobangla,

Melanie Meyer, President of Chevron Asia-Pacific Exploration and Production Company

Geoff Strong, President of Chevron-Bangladesh

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asalaam m'laikum

The partnership between America and Bangladesh is strong ... and that partnership is strongest and most important in the private sector. America is Bangladesh's largest single export market, with potential for great growth. And America is Bangladesh's largest investor with Chevron the single largest investor in Bangladesh.

I believe that these investment and trade relations will do great things in unleashing the energy, creativity and entrepreneurial prowess of the Bangladeshi people.

The Muchai Compressor Project, which the Honorable Prime Minister inaugurates today, is a great example of the partnership between the American private sector and the government of Bangladesh in responding to Bangladesh's surging need for energy and power.

I recall when I lived in Bangladesh a decade ago, thinking then that Bangladesh was swimming in gas. I was right in one sense that Bangladesh has important reserves of gas, but I

did not foresee the explosive growth of the Bangladeshi economy, the sky-rocketing demands for energy and power, nor the challenges of producing and delivering sufficient gas to meet the mounting demands.

Today witnesses an important step in responding to the energy needs of this dynamic economy. The Muchai Compression Project will increase the gas supply to Bangladesh's growing power generation, fertilizer, industrial and consumer sectors. Truly, Chevron's investment in this compression project will pay rich dividends in driving Bangladesh's economy and creating jobs.

I know Chevron well. I have partnered with Chevron for years. Chevron represents the American private sector at its very best. They are a strong, efficient, highly productive company. It develops and utilizes cutting edge technology in fulfilling its missions. Chevron is a great employer; here in Bangladesh, it invests heavily in its Bangladeshi staff, educating and training them to global standards.

Chevron takes its corporate social responsibilities seriously. Just yesterday I visited Bhairabganj Secondary School, where I saw the good work Chevron is doing to build the nation's youth by offering scholarships and providing computers so students are prepared for the 21st century world of information technology.

Chevron has built three USAID sponsored-Smiling Sun Health Clinics that provide health care to over 6,000 villagers a month in Bibiyana and Moulavi Bazar.

Chevron supports work training programs that improve the economic livelihoods of communities just like this one. If partnership is the theme of the day, it is clear that Chevron is a great partner of Bangladesh.

As the American Ambassador to Bangladesh, I am proud of the role that Chevron is playing in helping to strengthen the economy of this great nation, in helping to unleash the next Asian tiger, the Bengal Tiger.

Thank you.

=====

Prepared for delivery

GR/ 2012