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**REMARKS
BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
WELCOME REMARKS
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL
INVESTOR FORUM
WESTIN HOTEL, DHAKA
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2014**

Mohinder Gulati, SE4ALL Chief Operating Officer

Additional Secretary Tapos Kumar Roy, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Affairs Robert Ichord

Johannes Zutt, World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh and Nepal

ADB Country Director Higuchi Kazuhiko

Dr. Wolfram Klein, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

... and all who share my vision of Sustainable Energy for All as a great engine of transformation in emerging economies such as Bangladesh.

Asalaam ‘malaikum, nameskar, and good morning.

I believe something big ... something hugely important ... is happening now ... just now ... right here in Dhaka.

I believe today ... now ... here ... we are making powerful history.

Today we launch the first ever Sustainable Energy for All investor Forum.

We launch a public-private partnership that will tomorrow bring together entrepreneurs and investors in a fashion that has no precedent ... indeed, we today are making great history.

It is fitting that such history is made in Bangladesh. Some of you know ... but many may not ... that I believe Bangladesh could be and should be Asia's next economic tiger.

This is not some pandering vision of a wishful ambassador ... rather this vision of Bangladesh as the next economic tiger ... the Royal Bengal Tiger ... strutting across the global economic stage as a new economic power... is based on the reality that Bangladesh could be the world's largest exporter of apparel ... that Bangladesh could be a major global player in generic pharmaceuticals, shoes, finished leather goods, frozen shrimp and fish, small freighters, software development, semi-conductor development, flowers, bone china, jute products, silk products and the list goes on and on ...

Some may think that my vision is one of miracles.

Not so ...

Bangladesh is a land where miraculous things happen ... but not by miracle ... but rather as the product of the wondrous Bangladeshi people, who are so hard working, creative, entrepreneurial, resilient.

These people are accustomed to building miracles.

They have achieved an agricultural revolution whereby the world's most densely populated non-city state country is on the cusp of being food self-sufficient. Imagine this ... a country with the population half that of American and size of my home state of Iowa will soon be able to feed itself ... please be impressed.

Bangladesh has also achieved a health revolution by slashing the mortality rate of pregnant women and by slashing the mortality rate of children under five. Also, Bangladesh is so successfully implementing a voluntary family planning program that the nation is on a trajectory to achieve replacement level fertility rate of 2.1 live births per family, a marked contrast to 1971, when the rate was 6.3 ... you may be impressed.

And the number one cause of death today of Bangladeshi children between the age of one year and five years is not diarrheal disease ... is not respiratory disease ... is not malaria ... no ... Bangladesh has reined in those great killers to such an extent that drowning ... drowning ... has become the greatest threat to these children. You may yet again be impressed.

Now the people of Bangladesh are determined to achieve yet another of these miracles by creating Asia's next economic tiger, by creating a middle-income Bangladesh where all have the means to provide their families safe housing, ample, nutritious food, good healthcare and quality education.

Of course, as you will learn in a session this afternoon on the opportunities and obstacles of Bangladesh's investment climate, Bangladesh will need to overcome great challenges to become an economic tiger. One of these challenges is energy ... rather lack of sufficient energy ... and that is where this SE4ALL Investor Forum comes in.

This Forum is not yet another talk shop of high-sounding chatter. Rather, this Forum is about doing something, effecting great change, specifically addressing meaningfully Bangladesh's energy challenge.

Tomorrow we will hear proposals, real proposals, commercially viable proposals, sustainable proposals, good investment proposals that will address this nation's energy challenge by increasing the people's access to energy, by expanding the nation's supply of renewable energy, by improving energy efficiency, by introducing clean cooking fuels.

All of that and more awaits us ... wow!

With that, I wish to thank all of those who have worked so hard over past weeks, months and years to make this Forum possible, especially the government of Bangladesh and our good friends the people of Bangladesh.

I wish, too, to warmly welcome all you to participate in this great moment of history.

To tell more of this story, I am pleased to introduce Mohinder Gulati, the Chief Operating Officer of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Seconded from the World Bank to SE4ALL, Mohinder is a driving force of SE4ALL. His presence here today is tangible evidence of the high level support behind this Forum.

Thank you.

Mohinder ...

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**As prepared for delivery*