

20 March, 2016

Francophonie Economic Event focused on Trade & Investment Enhancement between Bangladesh & Francophonie Countries

Three Francophonie Heads of Missions in Bangladesh- the Canadian High Commissioner Benoît-Pierre Laramée, the French Ambassador Sophie Aubert and Swiss Ambassador Christian Fotsch underscored the need for further rising trade and investment between Bangladesh and three Francophonie countries- Canada, France and Switzerland. The Heads of Missions considered Bangladesh a very important trade partner of Canada, France and Switzerland. They were speaking at the seminar 'Trade between Bangladesh and Francophonie Countries: Opportunities' and Way Forward' on 20 March at the Hotel Le Meridien to celebrate Francophonie Economic Event. The Francophonie Economic Event a-part of Francophonie Week was hosted by three Francophonie Chambers-CanCham Bangladesh, France Bangladesh and Switzerland Bangladesh Chamber. Mr. Masud Rahman, President CanCham Bangladesh Chaired seminar which targeted to highlight the various issues with regard to trade and investment in between Bangladesh, Canada, France and Switzerland.

Mr. Christian Fotsch delineated that the bilateral trade volume between Bangladesh and Switzerland was USD 510 million in 2015. Mr. Fotsch further stated that trade potentials are still largely untapped. The new areas of economic cooperation could be high tech, clean tech and renewable energy.

Bi-lateral exchange of trade between Bangladesh and France was 2.4 billion euros in 2015 and Bangladesh is the fourth commercial partner of France in South Asia after Indian-

French Ambassador Ms. Aubert disclosed this at her deliberation.

Canadian High Commissioner Mr. Laramée termed Bangladesh an important market for Canadian agri-products and he expected that in future there is enormous potential to increase the bi-lateral trade between Bangladesh and Canada from present USD 2 billion.

At the beginning, CanCham Bangladesh President proposed the address of welcome and lauded the cooperation of the Francophonie Diplomatic Missions to Francophonie Chambers to enhance bi-lateral trade and investment relation between Bangladesh and Francophonie countries. He called upon the Francophonie Chambers to work together with the Francophonie diplomatic missions for creating a win-win situation thus accelerating economic growth of all the countries.

Mr. David Laizans, President, Switzerland Bangladesh Chamber moderated the seminar.

Masud Rana
Executive Director