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MIDAS NEWS

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Volume 29, No.4, October–December 2016

Condolence

The Members of MIDAS Board of Directors and employees deeply mourn at the sad demise of Mr. Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani on January 23, 2017 (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Elaihi Raje'un). He had made great contributions in developing MIDAS as Director of MIDAS Board of Directors since 2004. We are seeking blessing, mercy and forgiveness of Almighty Allah for the departed soul and convey our heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved family.



24th Annual General Meeting of MIDAS

The 24th Annual General Meeting of Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services (MIDAS) was held on December 20, 2016 at MIDAS Head Office in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The Members of the Company along with Dr. A.S.M. Mashi-ur-Rahman, Managing Director attended the Meeting with Mr. Bazlur Rahman Khan, Chairman, MIDAS Board in the chair.

The Directors' Report and the Annual Accounts of the Company for the financial year 2015-2016 were adopted in the Meeting. The Auditor for the year 2016-17 was also appointed in addition to the election of Board Members. Mr. S.M. Al-Husainy, Mr. Shaikh A. Halim, Mr. Mohammed Ikramullah, Ms. Rokia A. Rahman, Prof. Hafiz G.A. Siddiqui, Mr. Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani, Mr. Bazlur Rahman Khan, Ms. Sabina Alam and Mr. Anjan Chowdhury were re-elected as Directors of MIDAS Board.



△ A glimpse of the 24th AGM of MIDAS. Directors present from Left to Right: Ms. Parveen Mahmud, Ms. Sabina Alam, Ms. Rokia A. Rahman, Mr. Bazlur Rahman Khan, Dr. A.S.M. Mashi-ur-Rahman, Prof. Hafiz G.A. Siddiqui, Major General Mahabbat Jan Chowdhury (Retd.) and Mr. Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani.

Study and Research



POWER CELL
POWER DIVISION
Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

electricity and improved cooking using the Global Tracking Framework (GTF). 6 sets of elaborate survey tools provided by World Bank will be used for collecting data through Tabs from the field. These tools were used in other countries of similar Baseline survey initiated by World Bank. However, these survey tools have been further fine-tuned and adapted considering Bangladesh perspective through series of discussion in MIDAS Office in Dhaka with the visiting consultant from the World Bank Office in Washington DC, USA. Later on 4-day initial briefing on the tab based survey procedure and tools to be used was arranged for field enumerators and supervisors in presence of the World Bank Consultant.

Detailed briefing, field testing of the questionnaires and commencement of survey will be done soon once the tools are finalized and other necessary administrative functions are completed.

Power Cell assigned MIDAS to conduct a "Baseline Survey for Global Multi-tier Measurement for Access to energy" for Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development II (RERED II) Project funded by World Bank. This baseline survey would be carried out for the first time in Bangladesh on access to



Monitoring, Evaluation, Design and Supervision of ASSSRB Project

Agricultural Support for Smallholders in South-Western Region of Bangladesh (ASSSRB) is a Project of Department of Agriculture Extension, (DAE) under Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Bangladesh. The goal of the project is to improve livelihood of landless, marginal and small farmers through integrated and sustainable productivity. The project is being implemented by DAE and LGED in 58 Upazillas of 9 Districts of South-Western region-Gopalganj, Madripur, Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Barguna, Bhola, Pirojpur and Bagerhat. MIDAS is rendering consultancy services in the field of Monitoring and Evaluating and Design and Supervision of the project. Involvement of MIDAS with ASSSRB Project commenced in January 2016 and will continue till June 2018.

During the period of October-December 2016, as part of the monitoring and evaluation, some of the activities carried out by MIDAS were-

Prepared Quarterly Progress Report, Implementation Assessment and Support Report (PIASR), 10 leaflets for the Project; observed project activities in 4 Districts with IDB representative; conducted survey about distribution of Agricultural Implements in 6 Upazillas of Bhola District; visited 9 Districts to select sites of 8 farmers' training centers; monitored SAAO Training program at Bagerhat; etc.

Some of the Design and Supervision activities carried out by MIDAS during the period were-

Visited ongoing Village and Union Road improvement by Bituminous carpeting at Babuganj, Mehendiganj Upazilla of Barisal District, Rajapur Upazilla of Jhalakathi District, Tazumuddin Upazilla of Bhola District; visited ongoing bridge culvert construction of Nalchity, Rajapur Upazillas of Jhalakathi District, site of proposed culvert construction at Mehendiganj Upazilla of Barisal District; visited ongoing Market Improvement work at Bagirhat of Rajapur Upazilla of Jhalakathi and Kasherhat Bazar of Muladi Upazilla of Barisal District, etc.

Training



Skill Development Training for LGED Project Beneficiaries

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) of Bangladesh Government has been implementing Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project (HILIP) in Sunamgonj, Kishoregonj, Netrokona, Habigonj and Brahmanbaria Districts. The objective of the project is to improve living standards and reduce vulnerability of the poor of the project areas.

As per understanding with the HILIP Project, during October-December 2016 quarter, MIDAS conducted two separate training courses of 10-day and 7-day durations titled "Advance Improved Training on Jute Products" and "Advance Improved Training on Bamboo Products" respectively in Habigonj. A total of 40 participants attended these courses, funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Spanish Trust Fund (STF).



△ Glimpses of various training sessions on Jute and Bamboo Products

Technology Transfer



PUM-Netherlands Assistance for Private Sector Development

PUM-Netherlands Senior Experts is a government-supported organization based in the Netherlands. It offers services of volunteer experts, most of whom are former senior/top level professionals, to help industrial/commercial ventures and social organizations of developing countries. MIDAS is the institutional representative of PUM in Bangladesh. PUM-Netherlands is supporting Technology Transfer for Private Sector Development (TTPSD) program of MIDAS in Bangladesh. For availing PUM Senior Experts Services please contact: Dr. A.S.M. Mashi-ur-Rahman, mashiur@midas.org.bd, Mobile: 01711 842976, Tel: +88 02 9102698. During the period MIDAS arranged following missions of PUM Senior Experts for different organizations in Bangladesh.



Asix Limited

Asix Limited was established in 2011 to produce sustainable fashion and lifestyle products from high quality jute fiber, jute cotton and genuine leather. It produces household products like table runners, placemat to fashion accessories such as bags and shoes. The head office of Asix is in DOHS Baridhara and factory in Badda. In addition, Asix has three sales centers in Dhaka and one in Chittagong.

As follow up of her earlier mission, Mrs. Connie Valkhoff, Design and Export Marketing Expert of PUM Netherlands visited Asix Limited (Project No. 3835) from 22 October to 2 November 2016. During her stay in Dhaka she assessed their present market position and provided refresher training on product design development and appraised concerned persons about export marketing procedure.



△ Mrs. Connie Valkhoff, Design and Export Marketing Expert of PUM Netherlands with Ms. Afsana Asif Shoma, Managing Partner of Asix Limited and Dr. A. S. M. Mashi-ur-Rahman, MD, MIDAS



Saidpur Enterprise

Saidpur Enterprise is a Fair-Trade group that started originally to support refugees in Bangladesh. The organization is formed of two sub groups- Action Bag and Eastern Screen Printers. Action Bag makes unique jute bags and accessories. Eastern Screen Printers is a hand screen printing group who uses safe eco-friendly pigment dyes.

Mrs. Connie Valkhoff, Design and Export Marketing Expert of PUM-Netherlands visited Saidpur Enterprise (Project # 3471) in Syedpur Upazilla of Nilphamari District from 5 to 9 November 2016 to provide support in design and development of products.



△ Mrs. C. Valkhoff, Design and Export Marketing Expert of PUM Netherlands advising a member of Saidpur Enterprise



Centre for Development and Peace (CDP)

The Center for Development and Peace (CDP) is a non-governmental organization, established in 1998 with the goal of empowering the most vulnerable and at-risk women and children of Meherpur region. CDP initiated programs focusing environmental sustainability, human rights, vocational training, community health and disease prevention to help these women become independent, healthy, educated and active members of society.

Mrs. Bernadette Francisca Maria Damhuis, Design Expert of PUM-Netherlands visited CDP in Meherpur (Project # 3788) from 5 to 16 October 2016. She assisted developing new design of products and trained women on techniques of designing new dresses.



△ Mrs. Bernadette Francisca Maria Damhuis, Design Expert of PUM at CDP Office in Meherpur



Food Edge Limited

Bread & Beyond café opened its door selling an expansive collection of pastries and sweets. There are two branches, one in Banani and another in Dhanmondi. The café is still known to just a modest crowd but it has a good number of repeat customers.

Mr. Cornelis Ptrus Ferdinandus Marie Rompa (Kees) visited Food Edge Ltd, Dhaka (Project # 4861) from 5 to 18 December 2016 on a follow up mission. He provided hands on practical training to their concerned professionals on bakery items, modified their production process and quality control techniques, packaging, merchandising and shared his ideas on export marketing.



△ Mr. Cornelis Ptrus Ferdinandus Marie Rompa (Kees) at Food Edge Ltd in Dhaka



CORR the Jute Works

CORR-The Jute Works is a registered Fair Trade Trust for producing and marketing various jute based handicraft products. It is also a pioneer member of World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO).

Mr. Hubertes Gerardus Gertrudis Beckers, Management Development Expert of PUM-Netherlands visited CORR the Jute Works in Dhaka from 28 November to 7 December 2016 to follow up the implementation of recommendations of his earlier visit. He also provided new solution to other problems.



△ Mr. Hubertes Gerardus Gertrudis Beckers with Ms. Bertha Gity Baroi, Director, CORR the Jute Works and Dr. A.S.M Mashi-ur-Rahman, MD, MIDAS

New Books from the WB, IMF and ADB are available

World Bank Publications:

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- Doing Business 2016: Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency.** Price with VAT US \$ 44.10
- Global Monitoring Report - 2015/2016: Development Goals in an Era of Demographic Change.** Price with VAT US \$ 44.10
- Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty.** Price with VAT US \$ 37.73
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- Regional Economic Outlook - October 2015: Middle East and Central Asia.** Price with VAT US \$ 29.40

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MIDAS, MIDAS Centre (11th Floor)
Plot-5, Road-16 (New), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh.
T: + 88 02 9103421, 9113765, 9146579 M: + 88 0171 184 2976
F: + 88 02 58153580 E: midas@midas.org.bd, www.midas.org.bd

Mail to:

