

MIDAS awarded "2019 Francophonie Week Business Award" for nurturing Women Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh



△ Ms. Zahidal spahani (fourth from right), Director, MIDAS Board, receiving Francophonie Week Business Award on behalf of the company from Mr. Masud Rahman (extreme right), CanCham President, at the Canadian envoy's residence in Dhaka. Ms. Rokia Afzal Rahman (second from left), Director, MIDAS Board and Dr. A.S.M Mashi-ur-Rahman (first from left), Managing Director, MIDAS were also present, among others.

On 20th March 2019, MIDAS was awarded with the prestigious "2019 Francophonie Week Business Award" for its remarkable contribution in advancing women rights in Bangladesh. This award was jointly presented to MIDAS by Can Cham Bangladesh, Spain Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SBCCI) and Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) France Bangladesh at the Canadian envoy's residence in Dhaka. On behalf of 3 Francophonie country members, Mr. Masud Rahman, President of CanCham Bangladesh handed the award to MIDAS, which was received on behalf of MIDAS by Ms. Zahidal spahani, Director, MIDAS Board. Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, H.E. Benoit Préfontaine, Egyptian Ambassador H. E. Walid Shamseldin, French Ambassador H.E. Marie-Annik Bourdin, Moroccan Ambassador H.E. Majid Halim, Swiss Ambassador H.E. Rene Holstein, Vietnamese Ambassador H.E. Tran Van Khoa, Presidents of joint chamber of three French-speaking countries (Canada, France and Switzerland), Ms. Rokia Afzal Rahman, Director, MIDAS Board, Dr. A.S.M. Mashi-ur-Rahman, Managing Director, MIDAS and other dignitaries were present in the award giving ceremony.

In addition, Ms. Razia Sultana Rini, owner of Bornali Fashion House in Pabna, an entrepreneur assisted by MIDAS also received "2019 Francophonie Week Business Award" for her endeavour in becoming a successful entrepreneur.

MIDAS SME Trade Fair 2019 in Pabna, Bangladesh



△ H.E. Harry Verweij, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Mr. Anjan Chowdhury, Chairman, MIDAS Board of Directors, Ms. Akkie Okma, Senior Expert, PUM Netherlands, Ms. Parveen Mahmud, Director, MIDAS Board, Ms. Zahidal spahani, Director, MIDAS Board, Mr. Jasimuddin, Deputy Commissioner, Pabna, Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Police Super, Pabna, and Dr. A.S.M. Mashi-ur-Rahman, Managing Director, MIDAS were present, among others, in the opening ceremony in Pabna.

With the support of Square Group, MIDAS organized "MIDAS SME Trade Fair 2019" for Women Entrepreneurs at Old Doel Community Centre premise in Pabna on March 5-9, 2019. The trade fair was jointly inaugurated by H.E Harry Verweij, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Mr. Anjan Chowdhury,

Chairman, MIDAS Board of Directors, Ms. AkkieOkma, Senior Expert, PUM Netherlands, Ms. Parveen Mahmud, Director, MIDAS Board, Ms. Zahidal spahani, Director, MIDAS Board, Mr. Jasimuddin, Deputy Commissioner, Pabna, Mr. Rafiqul Islam,

Police Super, Pabna and Dr. A.S.M. Mashi-ur-Rahman, Managing Director, MIDAS. A total of 35 Women Entrepreneurs, trained by MIDAS, participated in the fair. The trade fair received wide media coverage and attended by many visitors.

MIDAS SME Trade Fair 2019 in Rajshahi, Bangladesh



△ H.E Benorit Prefontaine, High Commissioner of Canada, Mr Anjan Chowdhury, Chairman, MIDAS Board of Directors, Ms. Parveen Mahmud, Director, MIDAS Board, Ms. Shaheen Akhtar Reni, renowned social activist, Dr. A.S.M. Mashi-ur-Rahman, Managing Director, MIDAS and other guests were present at the inauguration ceremony.

"MIDAS SME Trade Fair 2019" for Women Entrepreneurs was held at Green Plaza Complex in Rajshahion January 24-26, 2019. With financial support from the Canadian Government, the fair was organized by MIDAS. H.E. Benorit Prefontaine, High Commissioner of Canada inaugurated the fair. Mr. Anjan Chowdhury, Chairman, MIDAS Board of Directors, Ms Parveen

Mahmud, Director, MIDAS Board, Dr. A.S.M. Mashi-ur-Rahman, Managing Director, MIDAS and other local elites and guests were present at the inauguration ceremony. A total of 36 Women Entrepreneurs, who were previously trained by MIDAS, participated in the trade fair. The fair received spontaneous responses from the local customers and visitors.

STUDY AND RESEARCH

Translating STDs and Amended PPA & PPR under Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPPP)

Under a contract with Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), IMED, Ministry of Planning, GOB, MIDAS is carrying out translation of a number of Standard Tender Documents (STDs) into Bangla from English and the Public Procurement Act 2006 and the Public Procurement Rules 2008 (with all amendments) into English from Bangla. A total of 12 such documents is being translated by MIDAS in two phases. Draft final translated documents of the First phase had been submitted successfully to

the CPTU authority. Besides, the draft final translated documents of the Second phase are on the editorial board and shall be submitted soon.

In order to attain sustainability of momentous growth in the domain of Public Procurement management through the introduction of electronic Government Procurement (e-GP), the Bangladesh Government initiated DIMAPPP project with financial support of the World Bank.

Evaluation of Behaviour Change Communications (BCC) Intervention: Endline Survey



△ A glimpse of the In-Depth Interview (IDI) of the selected households conducted by MIDAS officials and Data Enumerators

MIDAS, assigned by Berkeley Air Monitoring Group, Inc. of USA, conducted an In-Depth Interview (IDI) with selected 75 households from Bhanga Upazila in Faridpur District, Rajor Upazila in Madaripur District and Rajapur Upazila in Jhalokathi District. Prior to implementing IDI, MIDAS conducted a digital endline survey using Tablets of 900 households from the above stated locations during November-December 2018 under the

"Potential Evaluation on Behavior Change Communications Pilot Project" initiated by Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.

The evaluation's prime goal was to identify which Behavior Change Communications interventions support scale-up of clean and efficient cooking, to understand how and why they work, and ultimately to model their impact in the Alliance's key mission areas of health, environment, livelihood and gender.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Design and Supervision of ASSSRB Project



MIDAS signed an agreement with Agricultural Support for Smallholders in South-Western Region of Bangladesh (ASSSRB) Project, funded by Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on 12th January 2016. The purpose of the project is to improve the livelihood of landless, marginal and small farmers through integrated and sustainable production. The project is being implemented by DAE and LGED in 58 Upazillas of 9 Districts of South-Western regions. Involvement of MIDAS with the project will end in June 2019.

During the period of January-March 2019, as a part of the monitoring and evaluation, some of the actions carried out by MIDAS were:

Prepared 3rd quarter progress report of ASSSRBP for the FY 2018-2019, assisted in the preparation of project steering committee for the FY 2018-19 IDB meeting, organized and prepared monthly PMU, PIU and PMSU meeting proceedings. Besides, MIDAS consultants attended various training workshops like SAAO training in Barishal, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Jhalokathi; officers training in Barishal, Agriculture Fair in Babuganj, Barishal etc.

Feasibility Study for Establishing 300 Bed Divine Marcy General Hospital

The Christian Co-operative Credit Union Limited (CCCUL) assigned MIDAS for conducting a Feasibility Study for Establishing 300 Bed Divine Mercy General Hospital at Mothbari, Kaligonj, Gazipur, Bangladesh. In order to assess the market opportunity of the proposed Hospital, MIDAS carried out a field survey of potential users of hospital services in Kaliganj. In addition, a survey of hospitals in Dhaka was carried out. The data collected from the field is being analysed, findings of which will be used in Feasibility Report.



△ A glimpse of the questionnaire survey in Kaligonj, Gazipur

Analysing the Business Financial Viability of a Beauty Parlour

The Christian Co-operative Credit Union engaged MIDAS for analysing the business financial viability of an existing beauty parlour in Dhaka. Accordingly, primary data relating to day to day activities were collected through physical visits to the parlour. A female investigator was assigned by MIDAS for this purpose and she recorded activities using a MIDAS developed checklist on daily basis for 30 days during January-February 2019.

Scholars Tech

Established in 2015 Scholars Tech is a private IT company in Jashore. The company wanted to modernize their existing software quality, website development system and enhance their revenue generation. With these objective in mind, the company contacted MIDAS for receiving expert form PUM-Netherlands. Accordingly, Mr. Marc Voss, Senior Expert (Software) of PUM-Netherlands (Project Number-10047) visited Scholars Tech from 28 January to 02 February 2019 in Jashore and imparted hands-on training to the concern professionals of the company.

In addition, MIDAS collected accounts and finance related information from the parlour with the help of another checklist developed by MIDAS. On the basis of analysis of the collected information, MIDAS is preparing the report for submission to the client.

Krishok Bangla Agro Products

Situated at Hemayetpur in Savar, Dhaka, Krishok Bangla Agro Products is a private agro-based enterprise. Considering the increasing demand from the restaurants and the households, the farm is producing all kinds of Chinese Vegetables. However, the farm is not able to cultivate these vegetables round the years as it does not have any greenhouse. As such the farm contacted MIDAS for technological assistance for building a greenhouse. Accordingly, Mr. Jos Jarsson, Senior Expert (Green House) of PUM-Netherlands (Project Number-10046) worked for the enterprise during 3-17 January 2019 and provided them hands-on training for building a greenhouse at the farm site.

Technology Transfer

As part of technology transfer to the requesting clients, MIDAS arranged consultants from PUM-Netherlands for the following organizations during January-March 2019 period.

Some Glimpses of MIDAS SME Trade Fair 2019 in Rajshahi and Pabna, Bangladesh



World Bank Publications:

1. Health and Nutrition in Urban Bangladesh. Year of Publication: 2018. Price with VAT US \$ 31.46
2. Global Economic Prospects: June - 2018. Year of Publication: 2018. Price with VAT US \$ 27.56
3. Innovative Experiences in Access to Finance. Year of Publication: 2017. Price with VAT US \$ 23.62
4. Fair Progress?: Economic Mobility across Generations around the World. Year of Publication: 2018. Price with VAT US \$ 31.46
5. World Development Report - 2017: Governance and the Law. Year of Publication: 2017. Price with VAT US \$ 31.46
6. Attracting Investment in Bangladesh - Sectoral Analysis: A Diagnostic Trade Integration Study. Year of Publication: 2016. Price with VAT US \$ 35.43
7. Global Findex Database - 2017: Measuring Financial Inclusion and the Fintech Revolution. Year of Publication: 2018. Price with VAT US \$ 31.46
8. Doing Business 2018: Reforming to Create Jobs. Year of Publication: 2018. Price with VAT US \$ 31.46
9. World Development Report - 2018. Year of Publication: 2018. Price with VAT US \$ 31.46
10. Inclusive Global Value Chains. Year of Publication: 2016. Price with VAT US \$ 27.56
11. Women, Business and the Law - 2018. Year of Publication: 2018. Price with VAT US \$ 35.43
12. Strategies to Strengthen Bangladeshi Competitiveness-Thematic Assessment. Year of Publication: 2016. Price with VAT US \$ 35.43

Book Post

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