

The 1st Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation 9 July 2008, Dhaka



Bangladesh hosted the 1st Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation in Dhaka on 9 July 2008 pursuant to the decision of the 1st BIMSTEC Summit in 2004 for the need to establish an exclusive forum to address the issue of poverty alleviation. This was preceded by a Senior Officials' Meeting on 8 July 2008. Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was elected as a chairperson. The participants included delegates from all BIMSTEC member countries.

The member states made presentations on their national experiences in various areas of poverty alleviation. In their presentations, member states highlighted the policies, strategies and programmes undertaken nationally for poverty alleviation in their respective countries. The meeting observed that there was considerable interest among members to learn from the experiences of the others. The member states of BIMSTEC felt the necessity of creating a network.

The Senior Official Meeting was succeeded by the Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation on 9 July 2008; all member countries participated.

Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury opened the Meeting. Leaders of delegation of Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand delivered their respective country statements. While expressing concern at the growing incidence of poverty in the region, they reiterated their commitment to poverty alleviation through cooperation among the BIMSTEC Member States. They also shared their national experiences in combating poverty in the Meeting. The Meeting decided that the Second BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation will be held in the second half of 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal.