



\_SUSTAINABLE\_  
**APPAREL FORUM**

# Promoting the Sustainability Agenda within Textile and Apparel Supply Chain

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**5th Edition**

**5th March 2024**

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Venue: Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden

# About

**Promoting the sustainability agenda within textile and apparel supply chain.**

The Sustainable Apparel Forum (SAF) is leading Bangladesh's journey to become a premier destination for responsible sourcing.

By driving sustainability with innovation, technology, and education, SAF bridges the knowledge gap in the apparel industry. It creates a platform for pivotal discussions on sustainability, featuring insights from global experts.

The 5th edition of SAF, happening on March 5th, is dedicated to promoting environmentally responsible practices across the global apparel sector, encouraging the adoption of green manufacturing and sustainability.

This forum unites distinguished speakers, policymakers, and stakeholders in a collective push for sustainable business strategies that benefit not just Bangladesh but the global apparel scene. Join us in fostering a greener, innovative future in apparel manufacturing.



# Founder's Message

We are unwavering in our commitment to a sustainable, economically robust apparel and textile industry. Sustainability remains paramount for success and environmental stewardship in the global garment sector.

Since launching the Sustainable Apparel Forum (SAF) in 2017, the Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE) has been instrumental in promoting eco-friendly initiatives, supported by industry leaders and professionals.

Join us on March 5, 2024, for an opportunity to contribute to our sector's sustainable growth. We value your support as we continue our journey towards a greener future.



**Mostafiz Uddin**  
Founder & CEO  
Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE)







# SAF 2024

## At A Glance



**650+**

Delegates

**50+**

World Class Speakers

**20+**

Countries

**04**

Panel Sessions

**02**

Keynotes

**02**

Presentations

**01**

Breakout Session





SUSTAINABLE APPAREL FORUM 2022  
OPENING PLENARY

Opening Plenary

Ngũgĩ Mutahi, MP  
Minister of Planning, Economic Development and the  
Cooperation of the Government of Kenya

A.J. Chacha, Secretary  
General of the Kenya Textile and Apparel  
Manufacturers Association (KETAMA)

Panelists:  
A.J. Chacha, Secretary General of KETAMA  
A.J. Chacha, Secretary General of KETAMA  
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SUSTAINABLE APPAREL FORUM 2022  
OPENING PLENARY

# Agenda



Session	Time	Topic	Session	Time	Topic
Registration & Light Breakfast	08:30AM - 08:55AM				
Opening Plenary	09:00AM - 10:20AM		Plenary Session 02	02:20PM - 03:05PM	Behind the Seams: Decent Work Conditions and Livelihood in the RMG Industry – Perspectives on the Roles of Women Workers and Supervisory Practices
Tea/Coffee Break	10:30AM - 10:55AM				
Introduction to Plenary Session 01	11:00AM - 11:20AM	Bangladesh Apparel Sector 2024: Achievements and Global Competitiveness   Learning and Opportunities. By Tuomo Poutiainen, Country Director, ILO Bangladesh	Breakout Session	02:20PM - 04:20PM	Circular Design
Plenary Session 01	11:20AM - 12:50PM	Vision Bangladesh   2024 and Beyond: Sustaining Achievements & Competitiveness	Presentation 02	03:15PM - 03:25PM	Future Opportunities in Sustainable Innovation by Mr.Buddhi Paranamana. Director Sustainability & Innovation, PDS Limited
Lunch Break	01:00PM - 01:45PM		Plenary Session 03	03:30PM - 04:00PM	Sustainable Use of Water in Apparel Sector: Challenges, Opportunities and Ways Forward
Presentation 01	01:50PM - 01:55PM	Harmonised Social Assessments As Win-Win for Supply Chain Resilience and Sustainable Work Environments By Janet Mensink, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SLCP	Tea/Coffee Break	04:05PM - 04:20PM	
Launching Ceremony	01:55PM - 02:00PM	Launching of Recycle Exchange, 1st Model Apparel Sorting Center in Bangladesh	Plenary Session 04	04:25PM - 05:25PM	Energy Sustainability: Navigating the Transition for Apparel & Textile Manufacturing in Bangladesh.
Keynote	02:00PM - 02:15PM	Environment & Climate Challenges of the Sector & The Upcoming EU Regulation By Lars Fogh Mortensen, Consumption, Products & Plastics Expert, European Environment Agency	Open Networking	05:30PM - 6:00PM	



# Opening Plenary

## Sustainable Apparel Forum's Inaugural Plenary: Visionaries Unite for Change

The opening plenary of the Sustainable Apparel Forum promises a dynamic inauguration featuring influential figures such as industry leaders, policymakers, and government officials from Bangladesh and around the world. Esteemed global personalities renowned for their contributions to sustainability and innovation within the apparel sector will set the stage with their insightful words. Anticipate a compelling discourse on the current state of the industry, future aspirations, and collaborative efforts needed to drive sustainability forward. The opening remarks will inspire and guide participants towards a shared vision of fostering responsible practices and ensuring a resilient future for the global apparel industry.



**Salman Fazlur  
Rahman, MP**

Private Industry &  
Investment Adviser to  
Prime Minister



**H.E. Charles  
Whiteley**

Ambassador & Head  
of Delegation,  
Delegation of the  
European Union to  
Bangladesh



**Tuomo  
Poutiainen**

Country Director,  
ILO Bangladesh



**Werner  
Lange**

Coordinator GIZ  
Textile Cluster  
Bangladesh, GIZ



**Mostafiz Uddin**

Founder & CEO  
Bangladesh Apparel  
Exchange (BAE)



# Panel Session

01

## Vision Bangladesh | 2024 and Beyond: Sustaining Achievements and Competitiveness

Explore the roadmap to sustaining Bangladesh's achievements and enhancing competitiveness in 2024 and beyond. This panel discussion will delve into strategies, innovations, and collaborative efforts vital for continued growth. Expect insights on leveraging industry advancements, fostering sustainable practices, and navigating global challenges. Gain a comprehensive understanding of the vision that will propel Bangladesh as a key player in the global landscape, ensuring a resilient and competitive future for the nation's industries.



**Amirul Haque Amin**

President, IndustriALL Bangladesh Council (IBC)



**Avijit Chowdhury**

Executive Member (Additional Secretary), BIDA



**Fazlee Shamim Ehsan**

Vice President, BKMEA & Member, Governance Team, BEF



**Hazera Khatun**

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment



**Md. Khorshid Alam**

Executive Director (Enterprise Services), BEPZA



**Mesbahuddin Ahmed**

Chairman, NCCWE



**Miran Ali**

Vice President, BGMEA



**Moderator**

**Tuomo Poutiainen**

Country Director, ILO Bangladesh

# Panel Session

# 02

## Behind the Seams: Decent Work Conditions and Livelihood in the RMG Industry – Perspectives on the Roles of Women Workers and Supervisory Practices



In the vital ready-made garments (RMG) sector, creating decent work conditions and sustainable livelihoods is paramount. This session delves into the roles, challenges, and opportunities faced by women workers and line supervisors in RMG. By examining recent studies, we aim to highlight the complex duties of line supervisors, their interactions with workers, and the overall working environment. Our discussion, grounded in empirical evidence, seeks to unearth the pivotal aspects of leadership and management at the factory floor level, aiming for a deeper understanding that could drive improvements in work conditions and foster sustainable industry practices.



**Abil Bin Amin**

Country Manager,  
ETI Bangladesh



**Hans Docter**

Supply Chain  
Innovation Lead,  
Fair Wear  
Foundation



**Shahidur Rahman**

Professor,  
Sociology in the  
Department of  
Economics and  
Social Sciences,  
Brac University



**Smita Nimilita**

Bangladesh Country  
Lead & Global  
Foundations Lead,  
Reimaging Industry  
to Support Equality  
(RISE)



Moderator

**Steffen Siegle**

Advisor Programme  
for Sustainability in  
the Textile and  
Leather Sector  
(STILE), GIZ



**Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmmed**

Executive Director,  
Bangladesh  
Institute of Labour  
Studies – BILS

# Panel Session

# 03

## Sustainable Use of Water in Apparel Sector: Challenges, Opportunities and Ways Forward



Bangladesh's apparel sector, crucial for its economy, faces significant environmental challenges due to unsustainable water use. Consuming 1,500 million cubic meters of groundwater annually, the industry's practices not only cause a drastic decline in groundwater levels but also increase costs and impact local communities. This session highlights the urgent need for sustainable water management, exploring advanced solutions and policies to balance economic growth with environmental and community health. We'll delve into strategies for the sector to adopt more sustainable practices, ensuring its long-term viability and the well-being of the surrounding environment.



**Ashna Huq**

Director, Incredible Fashions Ltd.



**Emma Clarke**

Senior Private Sector Advisor, WaterAid UK



**Kazy Mohammad Iqbal Hossain**

Climate Actions Lead-Global Supply Chain, Lindex



**Mostafizur Rahman**

Climate and Environment Portfolio Manager, Embassy of Sweden



**Prof. Dr. Prosun Bhattacharya**

Professor, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm



# Panel Session

04

## Energy Sustainability: Navigating the transition for apparel & textile manufacturing in Bangladesh

The interplay of energy and sustainability is critical in Bangladesh's textile and RMG sectors, where a stable energy supply underpins production efficiency and product quality. Disruptions not only incur costs but also affect competitiveness due to inefficient energy use. As the world focuses on environmental sustainability, the industry faces a pivotal shift towards renewable energy. This transition promises reduced carbon emissions and meets ethical production standards, essential for maintaining global market position. This session explores the necessity of renewable energy adoption for the textile sector to enhance operational efficiency, minimize environmental impact, and comply with international sustainability benchmarks, ensuring the industry's resilience and future success.



**Laxmikant Jawale**

Regional Lead, South Asia & Southeast Asia, Apparel Impact Institute



**Michael Klode**

Project Manager, the Sustainability in the Textile and Leather Industries (STILE), GIZ



**Nirod Chandra Mandal**

Honorable Joint Secretary, Renewable Energy, Power Division, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



**Sarah Negro**

Vice President, Public Affairs, H&M Group



**Shafiqul Alam**

Lead Energy Analyst, The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)

# Keynote & Presentations

## Keynote



**Lars Mortensen**

Expert on Textiles and Circular Economy, European Environmental Agency

### Topic

Environment & Climate Challenges of the Sector and the Upcoming EU Regulation

## Presentations



**Janet Mensink**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SLCP

### Presentation 01

Harmonised Social Assessments as Win-Win for Supply Chain Resilience and Sustainable Work Environments

## Introduction to Plenary Session 01



**Tuomo Poutiainen**

Country Director, ILO Bangladesh

Bangladesh Apparel Sector 2024: Achievements and Global Competitiveness | Learning and Opportunities. By Tuomo Poutiainen, Country Director, ILO Bangladesh



**Buddhi Paramamana**

Director, Sustainability & Innovation, PDS Limited

### Presentation 02

Future Opportunities in Sustainable Innovation

# Breakout Session

## Circular Design by GIZ

As global markets pivot towards circular models, driven by new regulations aimed at resource conservation and the promotion of circular value chains, significant questions arise for product design and manufacturing hubs like Bangladesh. This session, presented by GIZ, delves into the transformation of design processes and the technological advancements facilitating a shift to circular design. We will explore the implications of these global trends on local production, investigating where design innovation is taking place and how technology is enabling more sustainable, circular approaches in the industry.



**Katja Moch**

Sustainable Products & Material Flows  
Senior Researcher,  
Oeko-Institut e.V.



**Prof. Maike Rabe**

Professor, Textile  
Finishing & Ecology,  
Niederrhein  
University of  
Applied Sciences,  
Mönchengladbach,  
Germany



**Mumit Hasan**

Director: Business & Operations,  
Reverse Resources,  
Bangladesh



**Rannveig van Iterson**

Public Affairs Lead,  
H&M



**Sonya Parenti**

Product Specialist  
and Sustainable  
Development Expert,  
Sonya Parenti Ltd.



**Nishat Hamid**

Director, Shasha  
Garments & EOS  
Textile Mills



# Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE)

The Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE), a key private entity, spearheads the transformation of Bangladesh's apparel industry towards greater sustainability and innovation. Led by its founder and CEO, Mr. Mostafiz Uddin, BAE is particularly noted for orchestrating the Sustainable Apparel Forum, a testament to its role in advancing green initiatives.

Beyond this headline event, BAE is actively involved in fostering awareness and adoption of the latest in green technologies and practices within the industry. BAE's dedication to education and innovation ensures that the apparel sector is not just flourishing but also aligning with global sustainability trends.



# Lookback





# Lookback







5th Edition

5th March 2024

In Partnership With



In Collaboration With



Organized By

