



SUSTAINABLE APPAREL FORUM 2025

11TH FEBRUARY 2025 | 6TH EDITION

RADISSON BLU WATER GARDEN
DHAKA, BANGLADESH.

ORGANIZED BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Kingdom of the Netherlands





ACCELERATING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION IN THE GLOBAL APPAREL INDUSTRY

The SAF aims to enable Bangladesh to progress as a responsible sourcing destination on the global map by accelerating the momentum of sustainability within the industry through education, awareness and a reduction of the knowledge gap.

The SAF offers a knowledge gateway and networking platform, specifically for the apparel & textile industries, allowing discussion around the issues related to sustainability. The Forum presents knowledge sessions and speakers of international repute in an environment that allows fresh perspectives on sustainability to be discussed.





PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA WITHIN TEXTILE AND APPAREL SUPPLY CHAIN.

From the beginning of SAF's journey, globally renowned experts shared their fresh perspectives on sustainability through series of Sessions & Presentations. Alongside the sessions, exhibitions of sustainable technologies, products and solutions were showcased under the same roof to accelerate the momentum of sustainability in the apparel and textile industry of Bangladesh.



Sustainable Apparel Forum 2025

11TH FEBRUARY 2025 | 6TH EDITION

Sustainable Apparel Forum (SAF) 2025 comes at a pivotal moment for the apparel industry, as the call for sustainable transformation becomes more urgent than ever. Organized by the **Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE)** in partnership with the **Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh**, this highly anticipated summit will bring together world leaders, industry experts, and innovators to drive meaningful change and tackle unsustainable practices.

SAF 2025 will foster an integrated approach to sustainability, covering key topics such as green production, sustainable fashion, recycling technology, and equitable supply chains. The forum will serve as a platform for discussing how to elevate sustainable solutions into a comprehensive movement—from enabling garment factories to reduce their environmental impact to advancing social equity across the supply chain. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore cutting-edge tools, technologies, and designs that address the industry's most pressing challenges, while also setting the stage for a responsible and inclusive future.




Event Agenda & Impact Numbers

Sessions	Time	Details
Arrival and Check-In	09:00 - 10:00	Registration & Networking
Welcoming Speech & Opening Session	10:00 - 10:50	
Panel Session 01	10:50 - 11:40	Bangladesh 2040: The Roadmap for a Resilient and Sustainable Apparel Sector
Presentation 01	11:40 - 11:50	Traceability & Cleaner Production
Panel Session 02	11:50 - 12:40	From Waste to Wealth: Paving the Path to Circular Apparel
Presentation 02	12:40 - 12:50	How Brands and Factories Can Collaborate for Cleaner Production
Presentation 03	12:50 - 13:00	Closing the Loop: Pacific Recycled Fiber Limited's Mission to Make Fashion Truly Circular
Lunch Break	13:00 - 13:45	Lunch Break
Presentation 04	13:45 - 13:55	Accelerating Financing for Textile Water Stewardship
Panel Session 03	13:55 - 14:45	Rethinking Water Use in Fashion Supply Chains
Presentation 05	14:45 - 14:55	Decarbonising the Supply Chain and Investing in Companies in Bangladesh
Panel Session 04	14:55 - 15:45	Power Protocols: Exploring Renewable Energy Frontiers in Textile Manufacturing
Special Announcement	15:45 - 15:55	Textile Hack Winner Announcement
Wrap Up	15:55 - 16:00	Closing Remarks
Networking Break	16:00 - 16:30	Tea & Coffee

Breakout Sessions		
Breakout Session 01	14:00 - 15:00	Navigating Traceability: Challenges and Solutions
Breakout Session 02	15:00 - 16:00	Future-Proofing RMG: The Role of Worker Upskilling

40+

WORLD CLASS SPEAKERS



15+


COUNTRIES

20+

INNOVATORS


550+

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES




04

INTERACTIVE PLENARY SESSIONS



05

PRESENTATIONS



02

PRESENTATIONS



10:00AM- 10:50AM

Opening Plenary



Chief Guest

Syeda Rizwana Hasan

Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, and Water Resources



Guest of Honor

H.E. Michael Miller

Ambassador and Head of Delegation, The European Union Delegation to Bangladesh



Guest of Honor

Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun

Executive Chairman (Senior Secretary), Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)



Guest of Honor

H. E. Andre Carstens

The Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh



Opening Remarks

Mostafiz Uddin

Founder & CEO, Bangladesh Apparel Exchange



Plenary Session: 01 | 10:50AM – 11:40AM

Bangladesh 2040: The Roadmap for a Resilient and Sustainable Apparel Sector

This panel will bring together industry leaders and policymakers to discuss Bangladesh’s progress, untapped opportunities, and the strategies needed to ensure a resilient and sustainable apparel sector by 2040.

Attendees will gain insights into sustainable manufacturing, innovative practices, circularity, policy frameworks, compliance with global regulations, collaborative approaches, and technological advancements that will drive the next phase of growth while safeguarding Bangladesh’s competitive edge in the global market.



M. Riaz Hamidullah
Secretary (West),
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh



Abdullah Hil Rakib
Managing Director,
Team Group



Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury
Chairman & Managing Director,
Evince Group



Salim Rahman
Managing Director,
KDS Group



Mahmud Hasan Khan
Managing Director,
Rising Group



Showkat Aziz Russell
President, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA),
Chairman & Managing Director,
Amber Group

Plenary Session: 02 | 11:55AM – 12:40PM



From Waste to Wealth: Paving the Path to Circular Apparel

The fashion industry is undergoing a transformative shift towards sustainability, with circular apparel emerging as a pivotal strategy. This panel will explore innovative recycling methods, the development of reverse supply chains, and the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) within the apparel sector.

The panel will convene to discuss the creation of closed-loop systems, advancements in recycling infrastructure, and the importance of comprehensive waste legislation. Attendees will gain insights into lifecycle assessments, classification systems, and the formalization of sustainable practices, equipping them to lead in the transition from linear to circular fashion models.



Moderator

Michael Klode

Head of Project of the Sustainability in the Textile Industries (STILE II) Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)



Koen Warmerdam

Co-Founder & Chief Commercial Officer, Aware



Mustafain Munir

President, CYCLO Recycled Fibers



Syed M Tanvir

Managing Director, Pacific Jeans



Tara Scally

CSR Specialist, Zeeman



Thijs Woudstra

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh



Plenary Session: 03 | 14:10PM – 14:55PM

Rethinking Water Use in Fashion Supply Chains

The fashion industry is a significant consumer of water, accounting for 4% of global freshwater withdrawal. In Bangladesh, the ready-made garment (RMG) sector consumes over 1,500 billion liters of water each year, depleting the region's dwindling groundwater resources and transporting byproducts and harmful contaminants to nearby water sources. This extensive water usage, coupled with increasing water scarcity and environmental concerns, necessitates a critical evaluation of current practices.

This panel will convene to explore strategies for sustainable water management within fashion supply chains. Attendees will gain insights into implementing sustainable models, understanding water rights, and building stakeholder capacity to foster a more water-efficient and environmentally responsible fashion industry.



Mafruda Rahman

Country Strategy Manager,
Resilient Water Accelerator



Azizur Rahim Chowdhury

Managing Director, J.M. Fabrics Ltd. &
Director, New Asia Ltd.



Hosna Ferdous Sumi

Senior Private Sector Specialist,
Finance, Competitiveness and Investment,
World Bank



Lewys Isaac

Water Stewardship Manager,
Primark



Neeltje Kielen

Delegated Representative Water,
Embassy of the Kingdom of the
Netherlands in Bangladesh



Syeda Afzalun Nessa

Head of Sustainability,
HSBC Bangladesh



Plenary Session: 04 | 14:55PM – 15:40PM

Power Protocols: Exploring Renewable Energy Frontiers in Textile Manufacturing

In an era where sustainability and energy efficiency are central to the future of industry, this panel will explore the opportunities and challenges surrounding renewable energy adoption in Bangladesh's textile manufacturing sector. As a critical player in the global textile supply chain, Bangladesh must look toward sustainable energy solutions to power its manufacturing processes and maintain competitiveness.

This panel will dive deep into decentralized renewable energy (DRE) solutions, off-grid solar options, micro-grids, and the country's path towards integrating renewable energy in the textile sector, focusing on innovations that can foster resilience and meet the country's climate targets by 2030 and beyond.



Moderator

Faisal Rabbi

Energy Specialist,
World Bank



Asif Zahir

Deputy Managing Director,
Ananta Group



Edwin Koekkoek

Team Leader, Green Inclusive Development
& First Counsellor,
Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh



Sebastian Groh

Co-founder & CEO,
SOLshare



Mohammed Sohel

Managing Director,
Bangla Poshak Limited



Mohammad Sohel Sadat

Chairman,
Shin Shin Group



Presentation

Insightful Presentations



**Eleanor
(Nellie) Gayle**

Community Engagement Director,
Apparel & General Merchandise
GS1

Topic

Traceability & Cleaner
Production



**Annemiek
Smits**

Corporate Partnerships Manager,
Solidaridad

Topic

How Brands & Factories
Can Collaborate for
Cleaner Production



**Luthmela
Farid**

Director,
Pacific Jeans

Topic

Accelerating Financing
for Textile Water
Stewardship



**Jonathan
Farr**

Director of Policy & Partnerships,
Resilient Water Accelerator

Topic

Decarbonising the Supply
Chain and Investing in
Companies in Bangladesh



**Willem
Grimminck**

Founder & Managing Director,
One to Watch

Topic

Traceability & Cleaner
Production

Breakout 1 | 14:00PM - 15:00PM



Navigating Traceability: Challenges and Solutions



Jeanet van der Stoel
(Facilitator)

Sector Lead Textile & Apparel,
GS1



**Marieke Jae
Santema**

Founder & CEO,
SEIRIOS



**Olaf
Lohle**

Head of Sales,
tex.tracer



**Koen
Warmerdam**

Co-Founder &
Chief Commercial Officer,
Aware



Breakout 2 | 15:00PM - 16:00PM

Future-Proofing RMG: The Role of Worker Upskilling



**Suhasini
Singh**

Head of Supply Chain Engagement,
Fair Wear Foundation



**Abil Bin
Amin**

Country Manager,
Ethical Trading Initiative Bangladesh



**Md. Bablur
Rahman**

Country Manager,
Fair Wear Foundation, Bangladesh



**Md. Shahinur
Rahman**

Consultant for Mondiaal FNV
(Bangladesh)



**Smita
Nimilita**

Bangladesh Country Lead &
Global Foundations Lead, Rise

Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE)

Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE) was founded to champion the growth and transformation of the Bangladesh apparel industry. As a dynamic platform, BAE facilitates the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and innovative solutions, empowering the industry to evolve beyond traditional manufacturing.

With decades of experience as a trusted apparel sourcing destination, Bangladesh is poised to advance to the next level—becoming a hub for premium fashion products and sustainable solutions. BAE is dedicated to accelerating this transition by connecting industry leaders, fostering partnerships, and driving positive change through thought leadership and impactful initiatives that reshape perceptions and set new standards for the global apparel sector.



INITIATIVES OF BANGLADESH APPAREL EXCHANGE (BAE)





FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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