

Envoys brief govt officials, business bodies

Push for HR compliance suiting EU requirements

Germany already enacts law to ensure human rights due diligence in supply-chain countries

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Businesses here are asked to comply with human rights due- diligence requirements as countries in Europe are ratifying corporate obligations in supply chains on this score.

The call came from a multi-stakeholder briefing session jointly hosted by Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) and Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) on 'Corporate Due Diligence Obligations for the Prevention of Human Rights Violations in Supply Chain' at MCCI's Gulshan office on Sunday evening.

"The objective of the session was to familiarize the business community with the latest developments in Due Diligence Obligations in Germany and their implications for Bangladesh," the MCCI stated in a press release issued Monday.

Recently, Germany enacted a law on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains, while the EU came up with a proposal for a guideline on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence. The German Act will come into effect in 2023, while the EU guideline was proposed in February 2022.

MCCI president Md. Saiful Islam pointed out that as the world moved towards stricter human rights due-diligence requirements, businesses in Bangladesh would have to respond accordingly.

He also emphasised the need for pursuing growth and progress amid increased costs which would arise out of complying with the new due-diligence obligations.

President of BEF Ardashir Kabir emphasised how the Bangladeshi employers valued their workers and were committed to protecting them.

He also praised the government for concentrating on human rights and their recent activities in pursuing those. He, however, believes that, "as a country where over 80 percent of its population work in the informal economy, Bangladesh would benefit from introducing the due-diligence obligations gradually".

Ambassador of Germany in Bangladesh Achim Tröster made the keynote briefing on the German Act and the EU proposal on Due Diligence Obligations.

After the briefing, an open discussion was held where grievance handling, reporting, and the overall mechanism were discussed. There were also talks about Bangladesh's road to GSP Plus, after its graduation from the LDC club.

The German envoy clarified that the new obligations would directly apply to the German companies. However, Bangladesh will have indirect implications owing to being the supplier country.

He also informed that German purchasers would inform their subsequent supply-chain members in Bangladesh about their requirements.

Country director of the International Labour Organization, Bangladesh, Tuomo Poutiainen praised the government for having a roadmap for change in implementing stringent levels of human rights due diligence. He thought Bangladesh was "ready to take ownership of the process of due-diligence implementation, but needed to improve its reporting standards."

Senior secretary at the Ministry of Commerce Tapan Kanti Ghosh clarified that although the German Act would not be directly applicable to Bangladesh, it would become a factor to address when its components were incorporated into the GSP- Plus incentive.

He believes Germany could help Bangladesh in complying with the obligations.

Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Md. Ehsan-E-Elahi mentioned the recent actions of the government in improving due-diligence standards in the country.

He reiterated government's "commitment to taking care of its working population and ensuring human rights".

The event ended with a vote of thanks from Mr Kamran T. Rahman, Senior Vice-President, MCCI.

jubairfe1980@gmail.com

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Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka and Bangladesh Employers' Federation hold a briefing session on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations for the Prevention of Human Rights Violations in Supply Chain at MCCI's Gulshan office in Dhaka on Sunday. Ambassador for Germany to Bangladesh Achim Tröster made the keynote briefing on the German Act and the EU proposal on Due Diligence Obligations. Among others, commerce ministry senior secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh, labour and employment ministry secretary Md Ehsan-E-Elahi, International Labour Organization, Bangladesh's country director Tuomo Poutiainen, MCCI president Md Saiful Islam and BEF president Ardashir Kabir were present. — Press release

Businesses urged to respond to corporate due diligence obligations

Bangladesh would benefit from introducing the due diligence obligations gradually as 80 % of its population work in the informal economy



Md Saiful Islam, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI), emphasised the need for pursuing growth and progress amid increased costs, which would arise from complying with the new due diligence obligations.

"As the world moved towards stricter human rights and due diligence requirements, businesses in Bangladesh will have to respond accordingly," he was addressing a briefing session on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations for the Prevention of Human Rights Violations in Supply Chain at MCCI's Gulshan office on Sunday.

MCCI and Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) held the session to familiarise the business community with the latest developments in Due Diligence Obligations in Germany and their implications for Bangladesh said a press release.

Recently, Germany has enacted an Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains, while the EU has come up with a proposal for a guideline on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence. The German Act will come into effect in 2023, while the EU guideline was proposed in February 2022.

Ardashir Kabir, president of BEF, said "As a country where over 80 % of its population work in the informal economy, Bangladesh would benefit from introducing the due diligence obligations gradually."

He emphasised how the Bangladeshi employers valued their workers and were committed to protecting them.

Achim Tröster, the ambassador of Germany to Bangladesh, made the keynote briefing on the German Act and the EU proposal on Due Diligence Obligations.

After the briefing, an open discussion was held where grievance handling, reporting, and the overall mechanism were discussed. There were also talks about Bangladesh's road to a Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) Plus.

The Ambassador clarified that the new obligations will directly apply to the German companies. However, Bangladesh will have indirect implications owing to being a supplier country.

German purchasers would inform their subsequent supply chain members in Bangladesh about their requirements, he added.

Tuomo Poutiainen, Country Director, International Labour Organisation, Bangladesh, praised the government for having a roadmap for change in implementing stringent levels of human rights due diligence.

He thought Bangladesh was ready to take ownership of the process of due diligence implementation but needed to improve its reporting standards.

Tapan Kanti Ghosh, senior secretary of the Commerce Ministry, said although the German Act will not directly apply to Bangladesh, it would become a factor to address when its components were incorporated in the GSP Plus incentive.

He believed Germany could help Bangladesh in complying with these obligations.

Md Ehsan-E-Elahi, secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, mentioned the recent actions of the government in improving due diligence standards in the country.

He reiterated the government's commitment to taking care of its working population and ensuring human rights.

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MCCI and BEF Holds Briefing Session on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains

প্রকাশ এপ্রিল ১১, ২০২২, ৮:৫৭ অপরাহ্ন



Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) and Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) held a briefing session on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations for the Prevention of Human Rights Violations in Supply Chain at MCCI's Gulshan office on 10 April 2022 at 4:30 pm. The objective of the session was to familiarize the business community with the latest developments in Due Diligence Obligations in Germany and their implications for Bangladesh.

Recently, Germany has enacted an Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains, while the EU has come up with a proposal for a guideline on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence. The German Act will come into effect in 2023, while the EU guideline was proposed in February 2022.

Mr. Md. Saiful Islam, President, MCCI, offered a warm welcome to all. He pointed out that as the world moved towards stricter human rights due diligence requirements, businesses in Bangladesh will have to respond accordingly. He also emphasized the need for pursuing growth and progress amid increased costs, which would arise out of complying with the new due diligence obligations.

Mr. Ardashir Kabir, President, BEF, emphasized how the Bangladeshi employers valued their workers and were committed to protecting them. He also praised the government for concentrating on human rights and their recent activities in pursuing those. He, however, believed that, as a country where over 80 percent of its population worked in the informal economy, Bangladesh would benefit from introducing the due diligence obligations gradually.

H.E. Mr. Achim Tröster, the Ambassador of Germany to Bangladesh, made the keynote briefing on the German Act and the EU proposal on Due Diligence Obligations.

After the briefing, an open discussion was held where grievance handling, reporting, and the overall mechanism were discussed. There were also talks about Bangladesh's road to GSP Plus. The Ambassador clarified that the new obligations will directly apply to the German companies. However, Bangladesh will have indirect implications owing to being the supplier country. He also informed that German purchasers would inform their subsequent supply chain members in Bangladesh about their requirements.

Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen, Country Director, International Labour Organization, Bangladesh, praised the government for having a roadmap for change in implementing stringent levels of human rights due diligence. He thought Bangladesh was ready to take ownership of the process of due diligence implementation, but needed to improve its reporting standards.

Mr. Tapan Kanti Ghosh, Hon'ble Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, clarified that although the German Act will not be directly applicable to Bangladesh, it would become a factor to address when its components were incorporated in the GSP Plus incentive. He believed Germany could help Bangladesh in complying with the obligations.

Mr. Md. Ehsan-E-Elahi, Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, mentioned the recent actions of the government in improving due diligence standards in the country. He reiterated the government's commitment to taking care of its working population and ensuring human rights.

The event ended with a vote of thanks from Mr. Kamran T. Rahman, Senior Vice-President, MCCI, followed by Iftar.



এমসিসিআই এবং বিইএফ'র আয়োজনে সাপ্লাই চেইনের করপোরেট ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স অবলিগেশন বিষয়ক সেমিনার

অর্থনৈতিক বার্তা পরিবেশক

মেট্রোপলিটন চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি-এমসিসিআই এবং বাংলাদেশ অ্যামপ্রুয়ার্স ফেডারেশন-বিইএফ মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘন প্রতিরোধে সাপ্লাই চেইনের করপোরেট ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স অবলিগেশনের ওপর গতকাল একটি সেমিনার আয়োজন করে। সেমিনারের উদ্দেশ্য ছিল জার্মান সরকারের সাম্প্রতিক ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স অবলিগেশন বিষয়ে ব্যবসায়ী গোষ্ঠীকে পরিচিত করানো এবং বাংলাদেশের বাস্তবায়ন।

সম্প্রতি জার্মানি করপোরেট ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স অবলিগেশন ইন সাপ্লাই চেইন বিষয়ে একটি আইন প্রণয়ন করেছে।

এছাড়া ইউরোপিয়ান ইউনিয়ন সাসটেইনেবল করপোরেট ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স অবলিগেশনের ওপর একটি দিক নির্দেশনামূলক প্রস্তাব

নিয়ে এসেছে। এই জার্মান আইনটি ২০২৩ সালে কার্যকরী হবে। ইউরোপিয়ান ইউনিয়নের গাইডলাইন বা দিকনির্দেশনাটি ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২ এ প্রস্তাবিত হয়েছিল।

এমসিসিআই সভাপতি মো. সায়ফুল ইসলাম সবাইকে উষ্ণ অভ্যর্থনা জানান। সভাপতি বলেন, 'যেহেতু বর্তমান বিশ্ব কঠোর মানবাধিকার ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স চাহিদার দিকে যাচ্ছে, বাংলাদেশের ব্যবসাকেও সেভাবেই এর মোকাবিলা করতে হবে। ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স মেনে চলার ক্ষেত্রে ব্যবসার খরচ বাড়ার ব্যাপার আসবে। তবে এর মাঝেই প্রবৃদ্ধি ও উন্নয়ন একসঙ্গে চালিয়ে যেতে হবে।'

বিইএফ-এর সভাপতি আরদাশির কবির বলেন, 'বাংলাদেশের মালিক পক্ষ শ্রমিকদের মূল্য বোঝে এবং তাদের রক্ষায় প্রতিজ্ঞাবদ্ধ। মানবাধিকার বিষয়ে গুরুত্বারোপ করার জন্য এবং তা রক্ষায় সরকারের সাম্প্রতিক বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ

প্রশংসনীয়। যে দেশে ৮০ শতাংশের ওপরে মানুষ ইনফরমাল ইকোনোমিতে কাজ করে, সেক্ষেত্রে ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স অবলিগেশনগুলো ক্রমান্বয়ে সম্পূর্ণ করলেই বাংলাদেশের জন্য ভালো হবে।'

বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত জার্মান রাষ্ট্রদূত আকিম ট্রোস্টার ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স অবলিগেশন বিষয়ে জার্মান আইন এবং ইউরোপিয়ান প্রোপোজালের ওপর সংক্ষিপ্তভাবে মতামত ব্যক্ত করেন। এরপর বাংলাদেশের জিএসপি প্লাস নিয়ে খোলামেলা আলোচনা হয়। এছাড়া গ্রিভেন্স হ্যান্ডেলিং, রিপোর্টিং এবং অন্যান্য বিষয় নিয়ে কথা হয়। রাষ্ট্রদূত নতুন জার্মান আইনের দায়বদ্ধতা যে সরাসরি জার্মান কোম্পানির ওপরেই পড়বে, তা তুলে ধরেন। এছাড়া বাংলাদেশি সাপ্লাই চেইন মেম্বারদের কাছ থেকে জার্মান ক্রেতারা তাদের প্রয়োজন নিজেরাই জানাবেন, বলে উল্লেখ করেন।

করপোরেট ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স অবলিগেশন ওপর ব্রিফিং সেশনের আয়োজন এমসিসিআই ও বিইএফর



মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘন প্রতিরোধে সাপ্লাই চেইনের করপোরেট ডিউ ডিলিজেন্স অবলিগেশনের ওপর সম্প্রতি একটি ব্রিফিং সেশনের আয়োজন করে মেট্রোপলিটন চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি, ঢাকা (এমসিসিআই) এবং বাংলাদেশ এমপ্লয়र्स ফেডারেশন (বিইএফ)। এমসিসিআই ইয়ের গুলশান অফিসের সম্মেলন কক্ষে আয়োজিত এ সেশনে এমসিসিআই সভাপতি মো. সায়ফুল ইসলাম, বিইএফর সভাপতি আরদাশির কবির, বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত জার্মান রাষ্ট্রদূত আ কিম ট্রোস্টার, আইএলও বাংলাদেশ কান্ট্রি ডিরেক্টর টুমো পুতিআইনেন, বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের জ্যেষ্ঠ সচিব তপন কান্তি ঘোষ প্রমুখ উপস্থিত ছিলেন। –বিজ্ঞপ্তি ফলশ্রু

