

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

世界知识产权组织



ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

المنظمة العالمية للملكية الفكرية

ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL
DE LA PROPIEDAD INTELECTUAL

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
ИНТЕЛЛЕКТУАЛЬНОЙ СОБСТВЕННОСТИ

C. N 2872

-04

The Chair of the Coordination Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Mrs. Hilde Skorpen, presents her compliments and has the honor to refer to Circular N. 2833, dated November 13, 2007, inviting candidates for nomination to the post of Director General of WIPO.

A copy of the letter from His Excellency Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Honorable Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, proposing the candidacy of Dr. Toufiq Ali for the said post is enclosed. *Dr*

February 12, 2008

Enclosure: Letter of His Excellency the Honorable Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



পররাষ্ট্র উপদেষ্টা
HON'BLE ADVISER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(Foreign Minister)

GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

12 February, 2008

Dear Ms. Skorpen

In response to your Circular Note No. 2833/04 dated 13th November 2007, I have the honour to inform you that Bangladesh has decided to propose Dr. Toufiq Ali, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative Bangladesh to UN Offices in Geneva and Vienna, as the Bangladesh candidate for nomination by the Coordination Committee for appointment as the next Director General of the World Intellectual Property organization (WIPO). The Profile (CV) of Dr. Toufiq Ali is annexed to this letter.

Bangladesh has been an ardent supporter of the WIPO, and believes that a strong and healthy organization can contribute to the development of effective and meaningful intellectual property regimes. In proposing the candidature of Dr. Toufiq Ali, Bangladesh has taken into consideration his rich experience, backed by intellectual discipline, and believes that he will have the vision to lead the Organization as well as the capability to deliver. His particular aptitude for consensus-building will be invaluable in the position for which he is being proposed.

It would be greatly appreciated if my letter, as well as the attached profile of Dr. Toufiq Ali could be circulated to the Member States of WIPO.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury)

Ms. Hilde Skorpen
Chair of the Coordination Committee
World Intellectual Property Organization

EXPERIENCE (recent)

Intellectual Property-related Issues

- Chaired the WIPO National Workshop in Bangladesh (17-18 April 2007) to review and finalize, at the national level, the draft Study on the Identification, Valuation and Intellectual Property Protection of the Traditional Cultural Expressions on Bangladesh. *This study, when published, will be a landmark document, and is the first attempt to compile such information comprehensively, for any country.*
- Remained closely involved in the formulation of national policies and strategies concerning intellectual property, development and trade
- Advised Bangladesh Government on updating Bangladesh domestic legislation to take advantage of the opportunity that international Intellectual Property instruments, including the TRIPS agreement, provided to LDCs.
- Played pro-active role in the coordination of regional position in respect of WIPO matters: Jan-June 2007, Coordinator of the Asian Group for all negotiations in WIPO.
- Remained actively engaged in the intergovernmental machineries/bodies of WIPO, in encouraging and strengthening international cooperation so as to develop capacity in the least development countries for the integration of IP into their national development policies and strategies.
- Actively involved as the ambassador of Bangladesh to organizations like WIPO, WTO, UNCTAD, as well as in the capacity of group coordinator of the LDCs to facilitate/encourage/ support, strengthening of cooperation amongst various international bodies involved in the field of IP so as to generate expanded and enhanced international assistance activities for these countries.
- On behalf of LDCs, negotiated in 2001 the LDC segment on TRIPS and Public Health – understanding on access to medicines. Subsequently, negotiated the extension of the transition period for implementation of the TRIPS agreement *thereby helping the development of the pharmaceutical industry and access to medicines in these countries.*
- Actively participated in the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, 2001-2006.

Environment

- Chair the Negotiating Group on Trade & Environment, in the Doha Round, from end-2003 to June 2007. One of the eight basic negotiating bodies of the Doha Round, it is critical to the Round's success. Chairing a negotiating body gives a unique insight into the WTO negotiating process, particularly its politics and technology. The significance of this area, which is new in multilateral trade rules, can be gauged from the fact that world exports of environmental goods and services alone is between US\$ 500-600 billion, depending on the definition of environmental goods and services. Given the interest in climate change, environmental degradation, and sustainable development, this area will get much greater prominence in future. *Intellectual property issues feature prominently in this area,*
- At the invitation of the IUCN, addressed their World Environment Conference in Bangkok, in November 2004 (*co-speaker, with Prof. Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University, in panel on International Environmental Governance*)
- In ICTSD (International Center for Trade & Sustainable Development - member of the Advisory Body on a Southern Agenda for the Environment),
- Chief Bangladesh negotiator at the 1990-1992 negotiations for the Framework Convention of Climate Change. Continue to be associated with climate change issues, in different forums.
- Special attention to environmental issues, which will feature more prominently, given the importance attached to climate change and sustainable development.
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Trade and Development

- Closely involved in the international discourse on the concept, and technology, of the role of external trade in growth and development.

- Contributed to the development (in 2006) of the architecture of Aid for Trade, a new concept in trade-related infrastructure and capacity building in developing countries. This has become a major theme in trade-related assistance from multilateral institutions and donors to developing countries, and has already reached \$18 billion (2007 estimate) and is expected to grow to \$30 billion by 2010.
- Closely associated with the UNCTAD's Intergovernmental Process, including the G-77 approach to negotiations.
- Chaired the UNCTAD Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, 2003.
- Chaired the UNCTAD Expert Group Meeting, 2003-4
- Chairman, WTO Committee on Trade and Development (throughout 2002).
- Attended UNCTAD X in Bangkok (2000) and UNCTAD XI in Sao Paulo (2004). These Conferences are held every four years.
- Participated as Speaker/Resource Person in UNCTAD workshops and training programmes, discussion sessions, investment policy reviews, etc

Human Rights:

- Represented Bangladesh in the Human Rights Council, and in the numerous bodies on human rights.
- Elected by consensus by the Asian Group countries, in 2006, to be the representative Member in the Working Group on Situations. This is the highest body (comprising one representative from each of the five regional groups) to consider complaints against any country on human rights violations. The Asian Group selection was by consensus.
- In 2007, again, nominated by the Asian Group to the Working Group on Situations. This time, unanimously elected by the Working Group to Chair the body.
- During 2006-7, actively associated with creating the institutional structure of the new Human Rights Council.
- Led the Bangladesh Delegation to the UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, 2001.

POSITIONS HELD:

Senior Expert (Trade & LDCs), UNIDO

**Vienna, Austria
6 July 2007 - current**

- Advise United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the nexus between trade policy and industrial policy, and strengthen the role of UNIDO in trade-related multilateral forums. Help in formulating a strategy for manufacturing in LDCs, with UNIDO assistance. Resource person for the LDC Expert Group Meeting in Burkina Faso, in September 2007 and the LDC Ministerial Meeting in Vienna, in November 2007

Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Bangladesh Mission, Geneva

**Geneva, Switzerland
2001 – 26 June 2007**

Geneva

WTO (World Trade Organization):

- Represented Bangladesh in the Doha Round of trade negotiations, developed and argued the cases of Bangladesh in the key areas of interest - industry, agriculture, services, trade facilitation, TRIPS, etc.
- Participated in the negotiations of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, at the 4th WTO Ministerial in Doha in November 2001. Also attended the 3rd WTO Ministerial in Seattle, 1999; the 5th WTO Ministerial in Cancun, 2003; the 6th WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong, 2005.
- Coordinated the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group throughout 2003 (also, during the 5th WTO Ministerial in Cancun in 2003) and again during June 2006-March 2007.
- Arranged the LDC Trade Ministers' Meeting in Dhaka, June 2003. Attended the LDC Trade Ministers' Meetings in Dakar, May 2004 and in Livingstone, June 2005.
- Chair of the Dispute Settlement Panel deciding on the case involving the anti-dumping duties imposed by the US on imports of softwood lumber from Canada, 2006. The case involved additional duties of over US\$ 5 billion imposed on Canadian imports, where Canada alleged that the US has misinterpreted the provisions of the WTO Anti-Dumping provisions, by applying the procedure of "zeroing". This remains a very sensitive issue.

- Active participant, on behalf of the LDCs, in developing the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). The EIF is a trade-related technical assistance and capacity building programme for the LDCs, involving six agencies – WTO, ITC, UNCTAD, IMF, World Bank, and UNDP.
- Detailed knowledge of, and expertise on, WTO negotiations, laws and procedures. Attended the WTO Mini-Ministerials in Montreal, Mombasa, Dalian, Rio De Janeiro, Paris, Davos, etc. *These mini-Ministerials were vital to developing and coordinating positions among a select group of key players in the WTO.*

ILO (International Labour Organization), **WHO** (World Health Organization), **UNHCR** (UN High Commission for Refugees), **IOM** (International Organization for Migration): Participated in the activities of these UN/Inter-Governmental organizations, to help further their objectives.

Close interaction with Non-Governmental Organizations (**ICTSD**, **Quaker**, **OXFAM**, etc.)

On the Management Board of the **ACWL** (Advisory Center on WTO Law) – 2004-7.

Vienna (accredited to the Vienna-based UN & intergovernmental organizations, 2001-2007)

UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)

- Launched in Dhaka, in April 2006, the largest UNIDO project in any single country (covers the Bangladesh Standards & Testing Institute, leather technology institute, etc.). The project (valued at over \$ 13 million) capitalizes on international interest in trade capacity building.
- Assisting in developing new projects for LDCs.
- Speaker/resource person in UNIDO-sponsored meetings, such as in the Conference of African Ministers of Trade and Industry (CAMI), Cairo, in June 2006.

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), **CTBTO** (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization), are other organizations with which I have had targeted, project-specific involvement.

Holy See (Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Holy See, Vatican, Rome – 2001-2007)

- Responsible for developing Bangladesh's relations with the Holy See(Vatican).
- In recognition of contribution towards promoting relations between Bangladesh and the Vatican, was awarded the high decoration of *Order of His Holiness Pope Gregory the Great*.

Secretary (Multilateral)

**Dhaka, Bangladesh
1998-2001**

Additional Secretary (Multilateral)

Led the Foreign Ministry team on multilateral affairs, with emphasis on economic issues.

- Coordinator for Bangladesh in the D-8 (for economic cooperation among 8 developing countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and Nigeria), 1998-2001
- Chief Coordinator for organizing the successful D-8 Summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1999.
- From March, 1999 to February, 2001, presided over the D-8 Official-Level Meetings among the 8 countries. The Official-level meetings are the highest body for preparation of documents and proposals for consideration by the Foreign Ministers/Heads of Government.
- Coordinator for Bangladesh for BIMSTEC (economic cooperation among Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand) from 1998-2001. Chief Coordinator for the BIMSTEC Ministerial-level Meeting in Dhaka, in 1999, and presided over the Official-level meetings between 1999-2000.
- Member of the Bangladesh Delegation to the UN General Assembly, annually, from 1998-2006.

Ambassador of Bangladesh

**The Hague, The Netherlands
1996 –1997**

- Established the Bangladesh Embassy in The Hague, as the first Ambassador of Bangladesh
- Set up the contacts and core strategy for the Mission, in The Netherlands.
- Promoted economic cooperation between the two countries with a special emphasis on promoting Dutch investment in Bangladesh and Bangladeshi exports to The Netherlands.
- Organized many investment-promotion seminars, and developed an insight into Dutch private entrepreneurial foreign investment decision-making.
- Promoted cooperation between the two countries in flood control and water resources management.

Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Bangladesh**Washington, DC, USA
1992 –1995**

- Responsible for several areas of bilateral Bangladesh-US cooperation.
- Developed contacts with US Government departments, including the State Department, the Department of Commerce, of Energy, etc.
- Represented Bangladesh's interests in US Congress.
- Additional responsibilities included developing and maintaining contacts with NGOs, lobby groups, and other private institutions. Through interaction with these groups, developed an insight into their influence on the US governmental decision-making processes. Have maintained contacts with, and continue to interact with, many individuals and organizations in the US Government and private sector.
- Promoted private sector investment in Bangladesh, particularly in the energy sector. Working with a private entrepreneur, helped develop the first private power generation proposal for Bangladesh.

Positions in the Foreign Ministry, in Colombo, and in Ankara**1975-1983, 1989-1991**

- Worked as Director(India), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka covering bilateral India-Bangladesh trade, joint rivers negotiations, inland water transit negotiations, border issues, etc.(1981-83)
- Director General (Multilateral Economic Affairs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Private Secretary to the Foreign Minister**Dhaka, Bangladesh
1973-1975**

- Integral member of the team which founded the Foreign Ministry as Bangladesh worked to establish herself in the comity of nations. Reported directly to then Foreign Minister Dr. Kamal Hossain.

Private Secretary to Law Minister**Dhaka, Bangladesh
1972**

- Private Secretary to the Law Minister, Dr. Kamal Hossain, in the post-independence period, when the Law Minister headed the Constitution Drafting Committee. The Constitution of Bangladesh drafted at that time remains the basic document for the country.

Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhola**Bhola, Barisal
1970-1971**

- Chief governmental representative for law and order, development, relief and land administration, in an area of 827 sq. miles with a population of just under one million (in 1970).
- *Responsible for coordinating relief and rehabilitation in the sub-division in the aftermath of the disastrous cyclone and tidal surge of November 1970 which killed more than 66,000 people in Bhola.*

Joined the Civil Service in 1968, based on a competitive examination. Received training in Lahore, Comilla and Chittagong.

EDUCATION**Boston University, Boston, USA****1983-1988**

- *Ph. D. (economics)*: Thesis was on the examination of the impact of specific intervention policies, using a multi-sectoral, general equilibrium open economy model developed for the Bangladesh economy.
- *Master of Arts in Political Economy (MAPE)*

Dhaka University**1981-1983**

- *LL.B.(Bachelor of Law)*

Dhaka University

- *Bachelor of Arts (Honors in Economics), minors were Mathematics and Statistics*

1964-1967

Notre Dame College, Dhaka

- *H.S.C (science)*

1962-1964

DATE OF BIRTH: 27th June 1946**FOREIGN AWARDS**

- *Order of His Holiness Pope Gregory the Great, The Holy See, Vatican (2004)*
- *Royal Order of Sahametrei Knight Class, Cambodia (2005)*

FAMILY

- *Wife:* Firdaus Ali, Former Registrar, East West University, 1999-2006
- *Son:* Tawhid Ali, B.A. (Harvard University), MBA (University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business) – formerly, with McKinsey Management Consultants, New York; now with Bernstein Value Equities, London
- *Daughter:* Simeen Ali, B.S. (Stanford University), MBA (Harvard Business School, Harvard University) – formerly, with A.T. Kearney Management Consultants, New York; now, with Time Warner Inc. New York.