

### ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

This is the sixth annual report of the Australia Bangladesh Business Council (the Council) since its inception in January 2004.

The composition of the Executive Committee for 2009/10 as elected at the 2009 Annual General Meeting was:

Chairman: Mr Brian Armstrong  
 Vice Chairman: Mr Delwar Hossain  
 Secretary: Mr Zahidul Islam  
 Assistant Secretary: Mr Reaz Hyder  
 Treasurer: Mr Kamrul Islam  
 Committee: Ms Tahera Jesmin  
 Mr Faruque Ahmed  
 Mr Khurshed Alam  
 Mr Muhamad Ibrahim Khalil  
 Mr Mizanur R Mazumder

The Hon John Dowd AO again agreed to be Patron of the Australia Bangladesh Business Council for the 2009/10 year.

The Executive Committee met on four occasions since the last Annual General Meeting with attendance shown below:

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Brian Armstrong	4	
Delwar Hossain*	1	3
Zahidul Islam	4	
Reaz Hyder	2	2
Kamrul Islam	4	
Tahera Jesmin	2	1
Faruque Ahmed	1	
Khurshed Alam**	0	
Md Ibrahim Khalil	2	1
Mizanur Mazumder	2	2

\* Unfortunately, Delwar Hossain was injured at work and was only able to attend one meeting.

\*\* At the third Executive Committee meeting of 30 May 2010, and in accordance with the constitution, Khurshed Alam was deemed to have vacated the office of Executive Committee member following non attendance at three consecutive Executive Committee meetings without leave of absence.



# Australia Bangladesh Business Council

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The Executive Committee set the following objectives for the year and established sub committees to attend to these objectives.:

- To review and implement changes to the existing strategic business plan.  
(Brian Armstrong-c, Mizanur Mazumder, Faruque Ahmed)
- To develop and implement a strategy for growing membership.  
(Zahidul Islam-c, Faruque Ahmed, Reaz Hyder)
- To develop and implement a strategy for growing the funds of the Council.  
(Kamrul Islam-c, Mizanur Mazumder)
- To enhance and maintain an effective web site.  
(Reaz Hyder, Monirul Islam)
- To establish a data base of opportunities for investment in Bangladesh.  
(Brian Armstrong-c, Ibrahim Khalil, Tahera Jesmin)
- To develop an investment check list for Australian investment in Bangladesh.  
(Zahidul Islam-c, Mizanur Mazumder, David Bitel)
- To establish and maintain relationships with relevant Commonwealth and State bodies.  
(Brian Armstrong-c, Delwar Hossan, Zahidul Islam, Reaz Hyder, Kamrul Islam)
- To develop and maintain a database of Australian companies doing business in Bangladesh.  
(Kamrul Islam-c, Ibrahim Khali, Tahera Jesmin)
- To develop a database of Bangladesh businesses in Australia.  
(Reaz Hyder-c, Tahera Jesmin)

The earlier strategic business plan was reviewed and modified with the *Strategic Business Plan 2010-2013* providing strategic guidance and direction for future Executive Committees and the implementation plan providing a detailed action plan for the next three years.

The vision, mission and strategic objectives contained in the plan are outlined below:

## **Vision**

To be recognised by the governments of both Australia and Bangladesh as a primary mechanism for facilitation of trade and investment and exchange of business information between the two countries.

## **Mission**



To develop and enhance commerce between Australia and Bangladesh by developing well established links into government agencies, trading bodies and industry in both countries and by building and maintaining quality relationships between our members.

## **Strategic Objectives**

- ❑ To promote technical, scientific and economic co-operation, trade and investment, tourism and cultural relationships between Australia and Bangladesh.
- ❑ To promote the Council and its image, and position it in good standing in the community.
- ❑ To grow membership.
- ❑ To provide a high quality of service to our customers.
- ❑ To improve financial strength and profitability.

The existing Australia Bangladesh Business Council web site, [www.abbc.org.au](http://www.abbc.org.au), was enhanced with additional and updated information and links to other appropriate sites.

A data base of investment opportunities in Bangladesh was prepared and will be added to our web site.

The Treasurer attended a dinner at the Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra on March 26 on the occasion of the anniversary of Independence Day of Bangladesh.

The Secretary and Treasurer attended the Happy Homes Project launch on 3 August. The Happy Homes project was established in 2006 with the aim of developing life skills for the deprived and adolescent girls in the streets of Dhaka so that they can overcome their present adversities and look for a better future. The launch was conducted under the auspices of ActionAid Australia (formerly Austcare) and Bangladeshi Friends of ActionAid Australia.

The Council's continuing challenges for the coming year are the attraction and retention of Council members and the attraction of committed Executive Committee members..