

Summary Feedback: Country Consultation on Trade Strategy

Country: **Bangladesh**

Place: **Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka** Date of Meeting: **June 13, 2010**

Total Number of Participants: **38**

Summary

Respondent Type	Stakeholder Comments / Feedback
1. The proposed areas of focus in the World Bank Group trade strategy are: trade competitiveness, trade finance, trade facilitation and logistics, trade cooperation, and the development of data, indicators, and information systems. How well do these address and balance the needs of developing countries in using trade to promote economic growth and poverty reduction?	
Government	<p>The strategy needs to place more emphasis on physical infrastructure.</p> <p>Trade competitiveness should be a high priority for the strategy. Support for import substitution should be included in this pillar.</p> <p>Creating a “trade data bank” should be the number one priority for the trade strategy. Discrepancies in data collection across government agencies are a big problem for setting policies on trade and for firms making investment decisions.</p> <p>Regional integration needs to receive more attention.</p>
Private Sector	<p>The World Bank should help governments respond to the global economic crisis by supporting trade cooperation and helping governments develop social safety nets, but how countries diversify exports should be left to the market.</p> <p>Potential exporters need a “trade data bank” that would have data on potential market opportunities and on compliance with foreign environmental and social standards.</p>
Academia, Research, Think-Tanks	<p>Trade competitiveness needs to include an emphasis on import liberalization—import policy cannot be separated from export policy.</p> <p>The strategy needs to give equal weight to both import substitution and export promotion.</p> <p>The strategy needs to give more emphasis to infrastructure.</p>