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No. BMG/CHR-301/1066

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations Offices and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and in reference to the latter's communication number IW/MK/AZ/is dated 8 August 2008 regarding information on Human Rights Council Resolution 7/9 – "human rights of persons with disabilities", has the honour to provide herewith the fax copy of the Government information specifically on the legal measures for ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Convention and the Optional Protocol which are of particular relevance as received from the capital.

The inconvenience caused for late submission of reply is regretted.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 14th October 2008

United Nations Office of the
High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
CH – 1211 Geneva 10
(Attn: Mr. Ibrahim Wani, Chief
Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch)
Fax:022-917 90 08



Encl : As stated

OHCHR REGISTRY

16 OCT. 2008

Recipients :A..2.....
 S..L.....

Brief Account of actions taken by the Government of Bangladesh for the Protection of Rights and Promotion of Services for the Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh.

In accordance with the Rules of Business of the Government Ministry of Social Welfare is the Focal Ministry for disabilities issues Programs on disability are implemented by the Department of Social Services, Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation and approximately 300 NGO's, DPO's in private sector registered under Social Welfare Ordinance.

1. The Government has reserved quota for employment of persons with disabilities and vide Ministry of Establishment Memo No. দস/(বিধি-১)-এস-৮/৯৫(part-2)-৫৬(৬০০) Dated: 17.3.1997 orphans.
2. The Government of Bangladesh approved in the cabinet meeting on 9th November 1995 the National Policy for people with disabilities, covering the whole range of activities on education, vocational training, skill development, employment provision, supply of assistive devices etc. for the persons with disabilities. The Ministry of Social Welfare in pursuance of the aforesaid policy has been implementing services for the disable community.
3. Jatiyo Shongsad (The National Parliament) enacted the disability welfare Act, 2001 on 4th April 2001 co-in siding with the 3rd National Day of the disabled persons. This Law is activated by gazette notification after the approval by the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 1st August, 2001.
4. In pursuance of clause 4(1) the Disability Welfare Act the National Co-ordination Committee headed by the Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare on disability was constituted by Gazette notification on dated 10th November 2001. This committee is the supreme body for promotion and protection of right and dignity of citizen with disabilities in Bangladesh. Under this act there are provisions of National Executive Committee headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare and 64 districts disability committees are headed by the Deputy Commissioner of the respective district.
5. The Government of Bangladesh with a view to promoting services and Programmes for the persons with disabilities decided to form the National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons (NFDDP) an upon approval from the Cabinet in 1999. The Foundation was registered under Society Registration Act, 1860. It was registered on 16 November 1999 with secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare as ex-officio chairman. The Managing Director and two Deputy Directors were appointed on Deputation from the Govt. to carryout its program. The Foundation received grant from the Govt. of Bangladesh total amount of 2.50 million Taka from 2002- 2006. The major fund was invested as Seed Money to generate additional revenue. This Foundation has disbursed a sum of TK. 5.49 crore as grant to 695 NGO's and DPO's and Tk. 1.98 crore as soft loan with 2% service charge.
6. The Government of Bangladesh has developed National Action Plan for persons with disabilities in consultation with 17 Ministries and it was approved by the National Co-ordination Committee on 26 September 2006. This action plan is aimed to enhance the status of persons with disabilities by implementing development program through different Ministries and Agencies of the Government.

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7. The Government has restructured the National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons (NFDDP) and renamed it as Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation by the Govt. order notification no. 705 dated 27-11-07. This Foundation is now a self governing entity with equal representation in the General Body and the Governing Body from Government, NGO's and representative working in the sector of disability. The chairman of the Foundation (Not in service of the Republic) is nominated by the Government for three years. Managing Director and other staff members of the Foundation are recruited through open competition as per Service Rules of the Foundation. This Foundation is going to implement the project "Promotion of Services and Opportunities to the Disabled Persons in Bangladesh" with a grant from Government of Bangladesh for 5 years at a cost of TK (one thousand five hundred fifty million ' under IDA credit .
8. An inter ministerial Meeting held in the office of the Chief Adviser on the 7th may, 2007 has decided to appoint 46 Focal Point on disability issues to 29 Ministries, 2 Divisions, 6 Departments & 5 Autonomous bodies. Accordingly 46 Focal Points were appointed and working on National Action Plan from their own perspective.
9. The Govt. of Bangladesh signed the UNCRPD as 92nd Member States of UN on 9th May, 2007.
10. The Government of Bangladesh ratified the UNCRPD on 30th November, 2007 as 8 Member State of UN, 1st Member State of OIC, 2nd Member State of SAARC & 3rd Member State of Commonwealth.
11. The Government of Bangladesh ratified the Optional Protocol of UNCRPD as 8th Member State of UN and 1st Member State of SAARC on 12 May 2008.
12. The Government of Bangladesh issued Rules under Disability Welfare Act, 2001, on 20 February 2008 and thereby the Act has provided Opportunities and Protection of Rights to the Citizens with disabilities in Bangladesh.
13. Since 2005-2006 Financial Year, the Government of Bangladesh has introduced monthly allowance for poor disabled citizens under Social Safety Net Programme.
14. The Govt. of Bangladesh has allocated 50 million taka as stipend to the disabled student in the financial Year 2007-08 and distributed amongst 12,209 recipients (Primary to University Level). Govt. has also allotted 60 million taka for the same program under 2008-2009 financial year.
15. The Government of Bangladesh attaches much importance to the promotion and protection of human rights of persons with disabilities. The Govt. has decided to contest in the election for Membership of the Monitoring Committee under Article 34 of UNCRPD. The Govt. of Bangladesh has declared its candidature and has nominated Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri, Visual Impaired (Managing Director of Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation) for the Position.