

Annual Consultation Meeting
Agence Française de Développement / Economic Relations Division

(Ministry of Finance, 1st June, 2016)

Speech of H.E. Sophie Aubert, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh

Dear Additional Secretary, Mr Faizullah,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's a real matter of satisfaction to be present here this for this First Annual Consultation Meeting between AFD and the Government of Bangladesh. This meeting is an excellent opportunity to carry out a first assessment of these first three years of activity of the French Agency in Bangladesh.

It's also a good opportunity to exchange ideas on how our cooperation could evolve in the future.

AFD is quite a new Development Partner to Bangladesh: it started its operations in Bangladesh in 2012 and opened an office in Dhaka the year after.

Today, 8 projects have been already approved, for a total amount of 367 M Euros, which is for AFD a good achievement after only 4 years.

Beyond the review of the on-going projects and of course the discussions on the upcoming projects, this First Annual Consultation Meeting is an important step in our bilateral relationship that we want to stand over the long term.

AFD has so far an important focus on urban development, transport, water and sanitation, because these sectors have been identified here as sectors where there is a real need for investment and expertise, and because we have considered that we could bring both funding and this needed expertise.

But my wish is that our collaboration could extend to other fields, and I would suggest to think about adaptation to climate change, I mean green energies and sustainable management of seas and rivers, that we call “blue economy”.

I am sure that we both have a common interest in cooperating in these sectors.

I also hope that this Annual Consultation Meeting will contribute to opening a fruitful discussion regarding the Establishment Agreement of AFD in Bangladesh.

As you know this establishment agreement is important for us. Definitely, it will help settle our presence and scale up our operations in Bangladesh. That’s why in my view a short-term objective to sign this agreement should be fixed between the concerned parties.

As a conclusion, let me thank you for inviting me to these consultations, which I am sure will be very interesting and useful for all of us./.