International Conference on “DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BUDDHIST HERITAGE AND PILGRIMAGE CIRCUITS IN SOUTH ASIA’S BUDDHIST HEARTLAND”

Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Date: 27- 28 October (Tuesday & Wednesday), 2015

Hosted by Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Bangladesh

In collaboration with

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Information Note
1. VENUE

International Conference on “DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BUDDHIST HERITAGE AND PILGRIMAGE CIRCUITS IN SOUTH ASIA’S BUDDHIST HEARTLAND” will be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), Dhaka, Bangladesh from 27-28 October (Tuesday & Wednesday), 2015.

**Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (Meeting Venue)**

Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka - 1207, Bangladesh.
Phone: 9180890 and 9180891
E-mail: info@biccbd.com
Web: www.biccbd.com
Corporate Office: 1, Minto Road. Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Dhaka - 1000.

The country’s only multi-purpose convention facility, Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), has 17 (seventeen) venues for holding small to large scale events, state functions, social events, seminars, conferences, product launches, annual general meetings, fairs, exhibitions, cultural programs, reality shows, etc. BICC has been the venue for many renowned economic, social and cultural events. It has proudly hosted a number of international conferences and summits over the years.

**Picture**

Bangabandhu International Conference Centre Picture
ABOUT BANGLADESH

Bangladesh under the great leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman emerged as an independent and sovereign country in 1971 following a nine month war of liberation. The majority (about 86.6%) of the people is Muslim, & rest is Hindus, Buddhists and Christians. Over 95% of the people speak in Bengali. English however is widely spoken. There is an elected single-house Parliament in Bangladesh, known as Bangladesh Jatiya Sangshad (National Parliament) in which the legislative power of the Republic is vested. The Speaker presides over the Parliament. The Prime Minister is the leader of the House, who is also the Head of the Government, while the President is the Head of the State. The people of Bangladesh are very simple and friendly. Sound communal harmony among the different religions in this country has ensured a very congenial atmosphere.

TOURISM IN BANGLADESH

With impeccable natural beauty, though provoking ancient relic and indomitable hospitality of the people Bangladesh has been blessed potentials, to be an amazing tourist destination. Situated between India and Myanmar with the entire south edged by the Bay of Bengal, this South Asian country is cress-crossed by hundreds of rivers making it an interesting delta. Sprawling green hills and valleys along with mangrove forest and long stretch of study sea beaches also add value to the spectacular natural beauty of this land. It is no surprise, this land attracted priests, traders and wanders from different parts of the world since ancient period.
Bangladesh is a land of diversity. It has a vast population of 15.02 crore include Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Buddhist and others who live in absolute communal harmony. The widely varied religious has an impact on the culture diversity, making it colorful interesting and lively. There are many spots of tourist’s interest in the country. These include nature driven once like sea beach, green valleys, forest, Archeological and Historical sites, Iconic religious places, cultural events, and manmade wonders. Thus, Bangladesh is a unique tourist destination where one can find the scope for all kinds of tourist interest. Being the world’s single largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans is a pride for the country.

One can come across the rich cultural heritages and very old history of civilization and meet the very happy and hospitable people of Bangladesh. From very ancient time tourists came to this beautiful land and commented.

Happiness needs no reason here. This is what you will feel when you’ll come to this land. Here everyone has a story – story to celebrate the life, story to survive, story to come to the help of others, story to become and hospitable and smiling – which might be your life-time experience.

Life is so good when you live it in Bangladesh. The people and the nature will help you to get the most out of it. Happiness, for us, needs no reason. We are always happy with knowing who we are whether our capability is satisfactory to us or not. We know how to celebrate the life we are give. We know how to get the most out of our life. There are many kinds of lifestyle of the people can be seen in Bangladesh — urban, rural and Tribal. Amidst the concrete jungle, the urban life follows a different direction than the rural life. The rural life has a much more strong relation with the nature. And, far from the maddening crowd, there are many tribal lifestyles can be noticed which are unique and vibrant in their own characteristics.


**THE CAPITAL CITY- DHAKA**

Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh. Dhaka is a megacity and one of the major cities of South Asia. It is located on the banks of the Buriganga River. Dhaka with its metropolitan area has a population of over 16 million, making it the largest city in Bangladesh. It is the 9th largest city and one of the most densely
populated cities in the world. Dhaka is known as the City of Mosques. Under Mughal rule in the 17th century, the city was known as Jahangir Nagar. It was a provincial capital and a centre of the worldwide muslin trade. The modern city, however, was developed chiefly under British rule in the 19th century, and became the second-largest city in Bengal after Calcutta (presently Kolkata). Modern Dhaka is the centre of political, cultural and economic life in Bangladesh. Although its urban infrastructure is the most developed in the country, Dhaka suffers from urban problems such as pollution and overpopulation. In recent decades, Dhaka has seen modernization of transport, communications and public works. The city is attracting large foreign investments and greater volumes of commerce and trade. It is also experiencing an increasing influx of people from across the nation; this has reportedly made Dhaka the fastest growing city in the world.
2. OFFICIAL WEBSITE


3. REGISTRATION AND BADGES

Participants are requested to register online at http://ibc2015.tourismboard.gov.bd/registration/ or complete the attached registration form http://ibc2015.tourismboard.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Sample-of-Registration-Form.pdf and return it to the meeting coordinator Mr. Aktar Ahamed at info@ibc2015.tourismboard.gov.bd of Host government of Bangladesh latest by 30 September 2015. Badges and information kits will be distributed to all registered participants on arrival at the registration desk at all official hotels from 14:00 to 21:00 on 26 October and from 08:00 to 17:00 on 27 October 2015 at meeting venue.

4. TRAVELLING TO BANGLADESH

Air Line Connections

For information on all major airlines traveling to the Bangladesh, please visit:

Visa Requirements

Prior visa is required to arrive in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Government is offering Visa on Arrival (VOA) for the citizen of some countries, Please see the list of the countries [http://visitbangladesh.gov.bd/travel-essentials/visa-service/](http://visitbangladesh.gov.bd/travel-essentials/visa-service/). The visa application must be made selecting the Bangladesh Embassy/High commission in the country where the applicant is located. In the absence of Embassy/ High Commission in the country of residence or the countries which are not included in the VOA list, special arrangement for Visa on Arrival (VOA) will be offered at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka to only the registered participants. All participants and delegates must be of a valid passport with 06 months validity (may need), or proper travel document and secure an invitation letter from the organizer.

Customs Regulations

For more information regarding customs regulations and restricted items please visit the following website:


5. TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS AND AIRPORT MEETING SERVICE

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism of Bangladesh will warmly welcome all registered delegates who have provided their flight details at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka. Transportation will be provided for all participants and delegates from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to the respective official hotels. Also transportation will be provided for all participants from the official hotels to meeting venue. There will be information desks at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka and all official hotels for all the participants for any kind of logistic support.

In order to organize this service smoothly, delegates are requested to register online or complete and return the attached registration form indicating their arrival, departure and accommodation details latest by **30 September 2015**.

6. ACCOMODATION

The official hotels listed bellow offer the participants special discounted rates, in limited numbers and on a first-come, first served basis. Payment by credit
card and Bank transfer is accepted, though credit card is highly recommended. Rooms will be blocked only for registered delegates for 25-30 October 2015. The last date of the booking room in official hotel is 30 September 2015, after that availability of room in the official hotels at the discounted rate cannot be guaranteed. Participants are encouraged to book accommodation as early as possible. Delegates are also requested to communicate with the contact person at e-mail address of the hotels below directly for hotel booking by **30 September 2015**

**Official Hotels:**

1) **Pan-Pacific Hotel Sonargaon**

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka,  
107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh  
Tel - +880 2 5502 8008 /, +880 2 912 8008, Fax: +880-2-912 7029, 913 8184  
E-mail- reserve.ppdac@panpacific.com  
Web [http://www.panpacific.com](http://www.panpacific.com)

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<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Rate per night (inclusive VAT &amp; Service Charge)</th>
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<td>Junior Room</td>
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<td>Pacific Deluxe</td>
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<td>Junior Suite</td>
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<td>Room Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Deluxe (one large bed/2 separate beds)</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Vinci Suite (One large bed &amp; a meeting space)</td>
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Rate per night (inclusive VAT & Service Charge)

3) Dhaka Regency Hotel & Resort:

Airport Road, Nikunja 2, Dhaka 1229
Tel: +880 2 8913912, Fax: +880 2 8911479
E-mail: info@dhakaregency.com
Web: www.dhakaregency.com

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<td>Luxury Deluxe</td>
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<td>Regency Studio</td>
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</table>
4) Hotel Bengal Inn

House # 7, Road # 16, Gulshan-1
Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh
Tel : +880 2 9880236, +880 2 9880610,
+880 2 9880798
Fax : +880 2 9880274
E-mail: reservation@bengalinn.com
info@bengalinn.com
Website: www.bengalinn.com

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<tr>
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<td>Super Deluxe (Double/Twin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bengal Suite</td>
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5) Hotel Washington

56 Gulshan Avenue, Road#132, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Telephone: (088) 02 9851467 -72, (088) 02 9894915
email: gm@washingtonbd.com
6) **Hotel Abakash**

83-88, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212.
Tel: +880 2 58811109, +880 2 9899288-90, Fax: +880 2 58811150
E-mail: abakash@parjatan.gov.bd, hotelabakash@gmail.com
Web: [www.parjatan.gov.bd](http://www.parjatan.gov.bd)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Deluxe Room</td>
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**COMPLEMENTARY TECHNICAL TOUR (29 October 2015)**

**Option: 01**

**A Tour of Dhaka City (FULL DAY SIGHTSEEING)**

**Sadarghat River port**- Situated on the bank of the river Buriganga. For a visitor there awaits an amazing scene with different types of boats; uncovered & covered boats, cargo boats, speed boats, tugs and motor launches going in every direction. Regular services of Motor launches including passengers Paddle Steamer and cargo to southern towns leave from Sadarghat.

**Star Mosque**- It is a beautifully decorated mosque built in the early 18th century and was renovated later with glittering star pattern mosaic with Japanese and English china clay tiles during 1926. It is distinctive for its low – slung style and the absence of minaret. A close look will reveal that the tiles illustrated with pictures of Mt. Fuji.

**Pink Palace (Thursday close)** - The magnificent Pink Palace is situated on the bank of the river Buriganga. Nawab Abdul Gani inherited this palace from his ancestor and named it Ahsan Manzil after his son Nawab Ahsanullah. It has 31 rooms with a huge dome on
top and 23 galleries displaying portraits, furniture, household articles and utensils used by the Nawabs.

**Shakhari Bazar (Hindu Street)** - It is a narrow street connecting Nawabpur road with Islampur road. Both sides of the narrow street are lined with shops mostly making and selling conch shell bangles. They inherited the technique of making bangles from Conch shell from their ancestors who started coming to this area in the early 17th century. They were mostly follower of Bishnu or Krishna. As per the Hindu religion married woman are to wear conch shell bangles on both wrists and to break them when the husband dies. Shells are not available now-a days and Hindu woman are opting to buy the much cheaper plastic lookalikes. And the Traditional Manuel technique is changed to motorized system now.

**Armenian Church** - This church was built in 1781 on the ruins of an earlier chapel by the Armenians. The name Armanitola came after the Armenian families who settled in that locality. The church is open every day.

**Lalbagh Fort (Sunday closed)** - Price Mohammed Azam, 3rd son of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb built this Fort Aurangabad in 1678. The fort was the scene of bloody battle during the first war of independence in 1857 when 250 Sipahis stationed here backed by people revolted against British forces. Outstanding among the monuments of the Lalbagh are the tomb of Pari bibi, Lalbagh Mosque, Audience Hall, and Hammam Khana (bathing place) of Nawan Shaista Khan now housing a Museum.

**Dhakeswari Temple** - It is the oldest Hindu temple in Dhaka and established in the 11th century. By some accounts, it is said that Dhaka city originates its name from the Dhakeswari temple. It is visited by number of devotees every day.
**National Museum (Thursday close):** Dhaka Museum was established in 1913, renamed and shifted to Shahbag in 1983. It has forty galleries under four departments; (1) Natural history (2) History & classical arts (3) Ethnography and decorative art and (4) Contemporary and world civilization. The museum contains a large number of interesting collection including sculptures and paintings of Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim period. It has rich collection of old coins of 2nd & 3rd century B.C., metal images, books on art, ivory and silver filigree works, textiles including world famous muslin clothes, embroidered quilt (Nakshikantha), arms and ammunitions of the bygone era warriors, varieties of handicrafts & models of village & urban life, contemporary paintings & sculptures, and valuable articles of the liberation war of 1971.

**Language Martyr’s Monument:** It stands as a symbol of Bengali nationalism. This monument was built to commemorate the martyr’s of 21st February, the historic Language Movement in 1952, is now observed as International Mother Language Day across the world. Hundreds and thousands of people with floral wreaths and bouquets gather on bare feet on 21st February every year to pay homage in solemn atmosphere. Celebration begins at zero hour of midnight.

**New Market:** The new market was established during 1950’s as oldest complete shopping complex, housing; Jewellery, Book shop, Readymade garments, Household items, Fresh fish, meat & vegetables Including varieties of seasonal fruits. The Fresh fish, meat and vegetable section is very popular to the affluent society as one of the best sources.

**Aarong Craft shop:** Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) is the biggest Non Government Organization (NGO) in the world. Aarong was set by BRAC with varieties of products manufactured by rural artisans from all over Bangladesh. It is regarded as the best collection Craft shop in Bangladesh.

**Bangabandhu Museum:** Bangabandhu, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, father of the nation called for independence of Bangladesh. The whole nation fought the liberation war in 1971 and got the independence after 9-months long battle with Pakistan army. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed with his family member by an Army rebellion in this house at Road No. 32 Dhanmondi Residential area, which was converted to a Museum, which depicts the activities during his life time.
Munsiganj Buddhist Temple:

A thousand-years-old Buddhist temple was discovered in Nateshwar area of Tangibari upazila in Munshiganj district. We estimate the temple was built more than a thousand years ago during the Gupta or Sen Dynasty. More importantly, the temple was built during the period of Atish Dipankar. Atish Dipankar Srijnan (980-1053 AD) was a well-known Buddhist scholar, religious preceptor and philosopher of this land. The temple was decorated with rich architectural design depicting the arts and culture of ancient times and hoped that more historical sites of Buddhist era will be found in Munshiganj district.

Option: 2

TOUR TO BUDDHIST HERITAGE SIGHTS OF DHAKA & HOME OF GREAT BUDDHIST SCHOLER ATISHA DIPANKARA AT MUNSIGANJ

(FULL DAY SIGHTSEEING)

Dharmarajika Buddhist Temple (Kamalapur):

Dharmarajika Buddhist Temple the main Buddhist temple and monastery in Dhaka. Has a Huge Black Stone sculpture of the Buddha as well as smaller marble ones. Great to visit during Prabarana Purnima (Loy Krathong). It was built during 1962 to conduct their activities for Buddhist community alongside the prayer, teaching, and meditation. This temple has a medium sized pond inside and beside this there is a large golden status of Buddha standing on the Lotus. Also you'll find the teaching (Pali Language) center and the prayer hall inside the premise. Monastery is open as long as the day light is on

DHAKA INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST MONASTERY

Dhaka International Buddhist Monastery founded in 1981 by the Theravada Buddhist community. It was initially set up in a rented house near the Malibag rail crossing in Dhaka. Sundarananda Bhikkhu was its first principal. From the beginning it played an important role in propagating Buddhism and preserving its culture and tradition in Bangladesh.

The monastery moved to its permanent building at Merul Badda in 1989. At the beginning, its activities were conducted by the Dhaka International Buddhist Monastery Committee. Later, this responsibility was taken over by the Bangladesh Buddhist Federation. The monastery has a
women's sub-committee to conduct devotional rites. Many dignitaries visit the monastery. Buddhist diplomats posted in Dhaka regularly visit it with their families and take part in religious and cultural ceremonies.

Among the archaeological relics preserved at the monastery are two statues of the Buddha from Thailand. One of the statues, which are 4’ 6" high, is made of bronze and weighs about 260 kg. The other, which is made of astadhatu, eight metals, is about 7’ high and weighs 777 kg.

**Munsiganj Buddhist Temple:**

A thousand-years-old Buddhist temple was discovered in Nateshwar area of Tangibari upazila in Munshiganj district. We estimate the temple was built more than a thousand years ago during the Gupta or Sen Dynasty. More importantly, the temple was built during the period of Atish Dipankar. Atish Dipankar Srijnan (980-1053AD) was a well-known Buddhist scholar, religious preceptor and philosopher of this land. The temple was decorated with rich architectural design depicting the arts and culture of ancient times and hoped that more historical sites of Buddhist era will be found in Munshiganj district.

**Atish Dipankar Era**

A joint team of archaeologists from Bangladesh and China has unearthed an ancient Buddhist temple with unique architectural features at Nateshwar of Tongibari upazila in Munshiganj.

They believe this discovery will offer interesting glimpses into the early life of Atish Dipankar, one of the most venerated Buddhist saint and scholar in Asia, who was born in this area over a thousand years ago.

"This is one of the oldest archaeological sites in our country. We have collected a number of samples from here. After conducting carbon dating on them, we will be able to gather more information about the time when these structures were built," said Professor Sufi Mustafizur Rahman, research director of the project in the Nateswar area. Although Atish Dipankar rose to fame early in his life and traveled to Tibet in his later years where he gradually had become the second most revered Buddhist saint in the world, very little is known about his life and education in this area.

Archaeologists from both the countries expressed hope that these finds would reveal many hitherto unrevealed sides of the saint's life as well as shedding light on the advent and decline of Buddhism in this region.

"This area could turn out to be a pilgrimage centre of Buddhism," said Nuh Alam Lenin, director of the excavation project.

"Touching the soils and walls here, my hands have felt Atish Dipankar's birthplace that had remained in his memories till his last days in Tibet. Here I can feel the religious reformation in Buddhism that had taken place from the tenth to the 12th century," said Professor Chai Hunabo, head of the archaeologist team from China.
Option: 03

TOUR TO BUDDHIST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, COMILLA & SONARGAON, THE OLD CAPITAL OF BENGAL

Archaeological sites: Comilla is 114 km south east of Dhaka. Mainamoti – Lalmai range hills located 8(eight) km west of Comilla. Exploration revealed 50(fifty) ancient sites dotting the hills, mostly containing various types of Buddhist remains of the 7th to 12th centuries. Excavations revealed interesting and informative finds at a number of sites; locally known as Salban vihara, Itakhula Mura, Rupban Mura, Kutila Mura, Ananda Rajar Badi, Charpatra Mura, and Mainamati Ranir Badi. Among the sites, Salban vihara, Itakhula Mura and Rupban mura attracts visitors. There is a site museum housed archaeological finds including; terra cotta plaques, bronze statues & casket, coins, jewelry utensils, potter and Buddhist inscriptions. Museum is closed on Saturday.

Sonargaon, the old capital of Bengal:

Sonargaon means golden city, 27 km, east of Dhaka city, was the Capital of Bengal from 13th to 17th century during the Chandra & Deva dynasty. Interesting spots to explore; the Painam village, Goaldi Mosque, Baro Sardar Bari, and the Craft Museum

World War-II cemetery, Comilla:

This is a well-preserved cemetery maintained by the common wealth grave commission, where lie buried the Soldiers Who fought during the Second World War in the Burma front.

Option -04:

Tour to Buddhist World Heritage Site-Sompura Mahavihara (Paharpur Buddhist Monastery)

Paharpur, the largest Buddhist monastery in the world-Sompura Mahavihara (Paharpur Mahavihara) which is designated as World Heritage site by UNESCO. According to a Tibetan test of 16th century, the ruins of the two of the five highest learning centers (universities) of Buddhism in the ancient world are in Bangladesh. These two are: Paharpur Mahavihara and Jagaddal Vihara.

Mahasthangarh is famous for archeological relics, museum, Govindavita temple, Vashuvihara and other Buddhist archeological sites. It is said that Lord Buddha has come to Bangladesh and stayed in Vasu Vihar in Mahasthangarh for six months.

8. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Name: The People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Capital: Dhaka
Main Cities: Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barishal, Cox'sbazar
Population: 16,000,000 (One Hundred Sixty Million)
Climate: Tropical
Form of Government: Parliamentary form of Democracy
Religion: Islam
Language: Bangla, English is widely spoken and understood
Head of the Government: H E Sheikh Hasina, MP
Minister for Tourism: Rashed Khan Menon, MP

- Local currency and Exchange rate: The local currency of Bangladesh is Bangladeshi TAKA. Foreign banknotes and credit card can be exchanged for Bangladeshi Taka at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka as well as at Banks and other authorized
money changers. As of June 2015, 1 USD is equivalent to approximately 78.50 Bangladeshi TAKA.

- Per Capita Income: 1314 US$
- GDP growth: 6.66%
- Climate: The average temperature of Dhaka is 25ºC. In October it drops to 15ºC-20ºC. The month October in Bangladesh is the beginning of winter season.
- Dress code: Participants are advised to bring light woolen wear. Formal Attire (business suit) is required at official sessions. Long-sleeved shirts and Ties are recommended for men and formal attire for women to attend the evening social events.
- Official Language: Bangla is the official language; however English is widely spoken and understood. The official language of the conference will be English.
- Time Zone: The official time in Bangladesh is 6 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT + 6)
- Electricity: Electricity in Bangladesh is 220-240 AC (Standard flat pin plug)
- Health: No vaccination are required except the participants from yellow fever and HIV infected countries.
- Insurance: Participants may wish to take out adequate travel insurance and health insurance before leaving their respective countries. The host has no insurance coverage for the participants and will not be held responsible for any accident that may occur during the conference.
- Business Hours: Government offices are open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM from Sunday to Thursday. Banks and Financial institutions are open from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Banks and Government offices are closed on the weekends and public holidays. (Note: Friday and Saturday are the weekends in Bangladesh). Shops are generally open from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

9. SAFETY AND SECURITY

The government of Bangladesh will ensure the safety and security of all participants and delegates. All necessary precaution will be taken to ensure that the conference and the meeting will proceed efficiently.

10. CONTACT DETAILS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mr. Aktar Ahamed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Manager</td>
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<td>PR &amp; UNWTO Desk</td>
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11. TOURIST PLACES TO VISIT IN DHAKA

National Martyrs’ Memorial

National Martyrs’ Memorial is a monument in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh it is known as “Jatiyo Sriti Shoudho”. It is the symbol of the valor and the sacrifice of those killed in the Bangladesh liberation war of 1971. It is built with Concrete, but made of blood. It stands 150 feet tall, but every martyr it stands for stands so much taller. It is an achievement the dimensions of which can be measured but it stands for an achievement which is immeasurable. The monument is located in Savar, about 35km north-west from Dhaka.

Ahsan Manzil

Ahsan Manzil is an attractive tourist spot in Dhaka. It is one of the most meaningful architectural heritages of Bangladesh. It is situated in Old Dhaka on the bank of the river Buriganga. The area is called Kumartuli in Islampur. Here you you’ll enjoy the feeling of the lifestyle of the Nawabs of Dhaka. The pink palace was actually built by Nawab Sir Abdul Gani in 1872, and was reconstructed after the tornado of 1888. Now it has been established as a museum. People have the opportunity to visit the museum and here you will find some historical and archeological things. It has 23 galleries displaying portraits, furniture and other objects used by the Nawab.

National Museum

National Museum is the biggest museum in Bangladesh and one of the largest museums in South Asia. It has several departments like archaeology, classical, decorative and contemporary art, history, natural history, ethnography and world civilization of displays. It has a rich collection of paintings, old coins, metal images, world famous embroidered quilts (Nakshi kantha) and much more. You can also find valuable articles of the heroic liberation war here. The Museum is noted for its collection of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin and works of other contemporary artists. The massive four storey building has not only a large exhibition halls, but also conservatory laboratory, library, three auditoriums, photographic gallery, temporary exhibition hall and an audio-visual division.

Sonargaon

Sonargaon was the capital city of the ancient kingdom ruled by Isa Khan of Bengal. It is a historical place. It is an example of a Mughal Palace and old museum. “The city of Panam” is another name of Sonargaon. Panam City and few majestic buildings are the attractive remains of its old glory. Here you can also see Sadarbari, Khasnagar dighi, Dulalpur Nilkuthi, Goaldi Shahi Mosque, Aminpur Moth, Damodardi Moth etc. It is a mix of Indian, European and Mughal architecture. The Folklore Museum is another attraction, which is visited by many people every day. This Museum of Sonargaon houses a variety of artifacts from all over Bangladesh, representing the many cultural groups that exist in Bangladesh. At Shilpacharya Zainul Folk Art & Craft’s Museum in Sonargaon, you will find some historical
and archeological things. This is a Picnic spot now. There is also have a large Dighi (pond), you can enjoy boat riding and fishing with borsi in this pond. It is Famous for Panam city and Museum

**Baitul Mukarram**

Baitul Mukarram Mosque is the National Mosque of Bangladesh. It is designed in the style of the holy Ka’aba of Mecca. Its construction started in 1960 and was completed in 1968. In this eight stories mosque about 40,000 people can say their prayer at a time. It is the biggest mosque in Dhaka city and 10th biggest mosque in the world. This uniquely designed mosque has several modern architectural features as well as it preserves the traditional principles of Mughal architecture. The mosque complex includes shops, libraries, offices and parking areas. It has a very beautiful Mughal styled garden that attracts people very much. Non-Muslims can normally enter outside of prayer time.

**National Parliament**

The National Parliament House or ‘Jatiyo Sangshad Bhaban’ is located in capital Dhaka with area of 208 acres. It was designed by Louis Kahn and made of concrete and marble showing a rich blend of ancient and modern architecture. Use of different geometrical shape and floating outlook are some different attractions of this glorious creation. You can visit only surroundings and lakes of the Parliament as it is not open for all.
**Bashundhara City** is a shopping mall located in Kawran Bazar in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with a rotunda architecture. Opened to the public on 6 August 2004, the mall is located at Panthapath, near Karwan Bazar. Bashundhara City is 21 stories tall, of which 8 are used for the mall and the remainder as the corporate headquarters of the Bashundhara Group.

The mall has space for 2,500 retail stores and cafeterias and also possesses a large underground gymnasium, a multiplex movie theater, a top floor food court and an indoor theme park. The fully air-conditioned shopping mall with rooftop gardens is considered a modern symbol of the emerging city of Dhaka. Bashundhara City is one of the largest shopping malls in south Asia. Up to 25,000 people visit the mall daily.

It is the first western-style mall in the city, designed by the Principal Architect Mustapha Khalid Palash and Mohammad Foyez Ullah of Vistaara. The cost of the building was more than $100 million; construction started in 1998 under Shafiat Sobhan Vice Chairman Bashundhara Group. The building has been described as an indication of the severe division between the middle class and the lower class. It is one of the showcases of development in Bangladesh.