



July 21, 2009

Dear Mr. Mohuddin:

We understand that you have superseded Mr. Faisal Samad as Chair of the MFB working group. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment and also to introduce ourselves and the MFA Forum.

The aim of the Forum is to promote sustainable competitiveness in the garment industry. Paul Dearman of Tesco and Maritha Lorentzon of H&M were appointed as Co-chairs of the MFA Forum Bangladesh Buyers group, and also the MFA Forum Bangladesh working group, at the Forum's convening in September 2007. The working group consists of NGO and Trade Union representatives, as well as many major buyers and other stakeholders from Bangladesh, all of whom have a shared interest in the success of the Bangladesh RMG industries. We imagine that you will be aware of the MFA Forum's existence and its engagement with stakeholders in Bangladesh which pre-date the formation of the MFB.

In recent months there has been very little dialogue between the MFB and the MFA Forum. While the situation in Bangladesh has of course progressed since the election of the current government, underlying issues such as working conditions, productivity and sustainability remain and will of course take much longer to resolve. The global economic downturn has made circumstances more difficult for all parties, including workers, and the stress of surviving in such conditions has culminated in violence such as the recent issues in Ashulia. With so much at stake, we believe that cooperation between stakeholders both inside Bangladesh and internationally, to understand and address these issues is essential. We therefore hope that participants in the MFB and MFA Forum (there are many parties who participate in both) will work together with greater focus and effectiveness.

We know that the MFB has been gathering information about the activities of its participants with a view to promoting local capacity building programmes. The MFA Forum has been undertaking a similar process. We are now at the stage of finalizing proposals from 2 potential partner organisations, which the group will consider and decide whether to support. We would be delighted if the MFB could participate in this consultation and perhaps support any resulting implementation.

The MFA Forum is also eager to understand which organisations are now represented on the MFB, in particular if there are Government, NGO and Trade Union representatives as well as buyers and manufacturers. It is our firm belief that all local stakeholders should take an active and equal role in supporting the development of the garment industry. We remain keen to work closely with the MFB.

Yours faithfully, on behalf of the MFA Forum

Paul Dearman
Tesco Stores Ltd.
Co-chair

Maritha Lorentzon
H & M Hennes & Mauritz AB
Co-chair

c.c. MFA Forum Bangladesh and MFB working group participants

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