



Draft Speech Thannaletchimy Housset

Message from IOE

14 September 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Thank you, Mr Ahmed, for your kind words of introduction.

It is a great honour for me, as the Adviser for Asia at the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), to be here and address the distinguished members of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF).

It is also my privilege to be in Dhaka, a city of great significance for Bangladesh and the world, a city of vibrant entrepreneurial spirit, a cultural, political and economic hub of the country and home to most of the local business conglomerate.

Special thanks to my respected and distinguished friend, the honourable employer representative of Bangladesh in the Governing Body of the ILO and Secretary-General of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation, Mr Farooq Ahmed, for his kind invitation to be here this morning.

On behalf of the IOE and our Secretary-General, Ms Linda Kromjong, let me thank you all for your warm hospitality. You will be aware that the IOE and BEF have worked closely together for many years on many issues of interest to business and employers and at different levels.

I had the privilege and honour of working very closely with Mr Kamran Rahman, an esteemed member of the ILO Governing Body for the last 8 years, and IOE Vice President of Asia Pacific for the last 3 years. Mr Rahman had contributed extensively to the IOE community in his capacity as employer representative to the Governing Body of the ILO, as an employer representative of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation and as the IOE VP of Asia Pacific in the fields of employment, standards, poverty eradication and efforts to eradicate child and forced labour. His contributions are plainly too many for me to go into, and I am grateful that he will still help to contribute to the global voice of business through the BEF in his capacity as President of BEF.

Mr Ahmed is the newly elected Employers' representative of the Governing Body in the ILO. His vast experience on industrial relations and supply chain related issues have been instrumental in his engagement with the IOE and in representing the global, regional and local business interests at the ILO and the wider UN multilateral system.

The IOE is most grateful for BEF's many other contributions to making the IOE the truly recognised global voice of business for labour and social policy affairs.

I look forward to our close and effective collaboration with BEF under the very capable leadership of Mr Rahman and Mr Ahmed and I believe this visit is one amongst many for us to solidify our relationship moving forward.

Thank you for your time and kind attention.