

# BANGLADESH CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUMMIT

2nd Edition

11TH JUNE, 2024

Radisson Blu Water Garden,  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

[www.bangladeshcirculareconomysummit.com](http://www.bangladeshcirculareconomysummit.com)

ORGANIZED BY



IN COLLABORATION WITH



Implemented by:  
**giz**  
Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Kingdom of the Netherlands



# The Bangladesh Circular Economy Summit

*The Bangladesh Circular Economy Summit is a pivotal step in the nation's transition towards a circular economy. As the first event in Bangladesh solely focused on circularity, the summit marks a historic moment in the country's growth trajectory. Organized by the Bangladesh Apparel Exchange, this comprehensive platform brings together stakeholders from diverse sectors, including industry leaders, policymakers, academics, and innovators for addressing the pressing challenges and seizing the vast opportunities associated with circular economic practices.*



The summit is instrumental in promoting sustainable innovation and facilitating robust industry collaboration. By highlighting the profound importance of the circular economy, it empowers sustainable business growth and catalyzes industry-wide transformation. Moreover, the summit plays a crucial role in positioning Bangladesh as a prime destination for global investments.

The Bangladesh Circular Economy Summit is dedicated to shaping a more resilient, sustainable, and closed-loop economic future for the nation.



# Circular Economy Focus in Bangladesh

*As Bangladesh experiences rapid industrial growth, the traditional linear economic model—characterized by a take-make-dispose approach—has resulted in significant environmental degradation and resource depletion. Focusing on a circular economy is a crucial step towards sustainable development, especially given Bangladesh's prominent role in the global textile and garment industry.*

The circular economy, advocating for a closed-loop system, has gained traction as a strategic approach to address environmental concerns, unlock economic benefits, and spur innovation. This transition opens new business opportunities and markets centered on sustainability. As global markets increasingly prioritize sustainability, adopting circular economy practices enhances Bangladesh's competitiveness on the international stage.





# Background of the Summit and Its Significance

The significance of the Bangladesh Circular Economy Summit lies in its comprehensive approach to tackling the pressing environmental and economic challenges faced by Bangladesh.

The summit's focus on the circular economy is crucial, as it promotes the reuse, recycling, and regeneration of materials, thereby reducing waste, minimizing environmental impact and conserving resources.

Bangladesh Circular Economy Summit serves as a critical platform for bringing together a diverse array of stakeholders, including industry leaders, policymakers, academics, and innovators. This convergence is essential for fostering dialogue and collaboration across sectors, ensuring that all voices are heard and that innovative solutions can be co-created. By facilitating these discussions, the summit aims to identify and overcome the barriers to adopting circular economic practices and to highlight the vast opportunities for sustainable growth.

Moreover, the summit aligns with global goals of transitional circular economy and positions Bangladesh as a leader in circular economy initiatives.





# Founders' Message

Dear Visionaries,

Welcome to the inception of a transformative journey. Your presence is truly inspiring and highlights the importance of the circular economy for Bangladesh.

Reflecting on our journey since 2016, I remember the challenges we faced. Today, I'm proud to see widespread awareness of circularity in Bangladesh.

We have made tremendous progress. From launching the P4G Closing the Loop project in 2018 to establishing a model sorting center in 2020, our efforts have laid a strong foundation. The Circular Economy Summit is not just about awareness; it's about taking action. We need policy support to import second-hand garments and establish recycling plants. This is crucial for our industry's future.

Let's work together to make Bangladesh a leader in circularity. Your role is vital in this journey.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

---

**Mostafiz Uddin**  
**Founder & CEO**  
**Bangladesh Apparel Exchange**





# Event Agenda / 2024

Session	Time	Details
Registration	09:45 AM – 10:29 AM	Registration, Breakfast & Networking
Opening Ceremony	10:30 AM – 11:15 AM	
Launching	11:16 AM – 11:20 AM	Launching of Circular Textile Hackathon
Plenary Session 01	11:21 AM – 12:20 PM	“Formalizing the Informal Jhoot Sector”
Breakout Session	11:31 AM – 01:29 PM	“Mapping the Way for RMG Circularity” To be Organized by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh
Presentation 01	12:21 PM – 12:29 PM	“EU Due Diligence and Legislations on Circularity” By Charles Whiteley, Head of the Delegation, Delegation of the European Union in Bangladesh
Plenary Session 02	12:30 PM – 01:29 PM	“Closing the Loop of Textile Waste”
Lunch Break	01:30 PM – 02:00 PM	Lunch & Networking
Presentation 02	02:01 PM – 02:10 PM	“Market Incentives for Eco-design: The Case of Eco-modulation” By Harri Kalimo, Professor and Co-Director the 3E (Environment, Economy and Energy) Research Centre, Brussels School of Governance
Plenary Session 03	02:11 PM – 03:10 PM	“Circular Design: Reality vs Challenges”
Presentation 03	03:11 PM – 03:20 PM	“A National Circular Textile Roadmap for Bangladesh” By Patrick Schroeder, Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House
Coffee Break	03:21 PM – 03:35 PM	Coffee, Snacks & Networking
Plenary Session 04	03:36 PM – 04:35 PM	“Transparency & Traceability in Circularity”
Summing Up & Closing	04:36 PM – 04:45 PM	



# Event Highlights

**460+**

National & International  
Delegates

**30+**

Worldclass National &  
International Speakers

**05**

Panel  
Sessions

**04**

Presentations &  
Breakout Sessions

**23**

Partners &  
Contributors

**25**

Country  
Representation



# Opening Plenary





# Jahangir Kabir Nanak

Former Minister of Textiles & Jute

GUEST OF HONOR



With only one Earth, it's our responsibility to protect it for future generations.

Jahangir Kabir Nanak firstly recognized the efforts of entrepreneurs in advancing the sustainable growth of the country's apparel industry. He highlighted the industry's significant economic contribution, while employing 4 million workers, predominantly women. Nanak praised the sector's progress in safety improvements and environmental practices, noting over 200 LEED-certified green factories with more awaiting certification.

The Minister emphasized Bangladesh's ambitious goal to achieve a USD 100 billion export target by 2030, underpinned by infrastructure developments supported by the government. However, he stressed the importance of sustainability, asserting that environmental preservation must accompany industrial growth. Nanak advocated for embracing circular economy principles to safeguard the planet for future generations.

He expressed confidence in Bangladesh's potential to lead in circular fashion, akin to its leadership in safety and green factory initiatives. Nanak called for collaboration among various stakeholders—manufacturers, brands, labor organizations, government, development partners, and media—to drive this transformation towards a sustainable and circular apparel industry.



# Siddiqur Rahman

Former President of BGMEA

GUEST OF HONOR

Siddiqur Rahman highlighted the industry's significant progress amidst challenges, emphasizing Bangladesh's adherence to high compliance standards and adoption of environmentally friendly production processes. He noted the achievement of over 200 LEED-certified green factories in Bangladesh, with more awaiting certification, showcasing the country's commitment to sustainability.

Siddiqur Rahman underscored Bangladesh's increasing focus on circular economy principles, including efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials. Collaboration between brands and manufacturers was identified as critical for advancing circularity in the fashion industry, particularly in light of upcoming European Union legislation mandating circular content in apparel. He called for support from developed countries in sharing knowledge and technologies for apparel recycling.

He stressed the importance of partnerships in achieving sustainability goals. Rahman appealed to brands for an increase in prices to ensure the industry's survival, emphasizing transparency and inviting buyers to visit Bangladesh's factories to witness its reliability and sustainability firsthand.



Bangladesh is a sustainable and reliable partner. We require support from the developed countries for know-how and technology sharing on circularity.



# Jan Janowski

**Deputy Head of Mission,  
Embassy of Germany in Bangladesh**

GUEST OF HONOR



Investing in sustainable production is not just responsible but strategic, positioning Bangladesh as a leader in global sustainable manufacturing.

Jan Janowski, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Germany in Bangladesh, delivered a speech emphasizing the critical shift from a linear to a circular economy, particularly pertinent in resource-constrained Bangladesh. Highlighting Germany's development cooperation through GIZ, Janowski underscored initiatives in renewable energy, sustainable urban development, and biodiversity conservation as crucial for advancing circular practices. He stressed the importance of collaborative efforts between the private sector and government in fostering sustainable growth, essential for protecting Bangladesh's natural environment and ensuring economic resilience.

Janowski emphasized the garment sector's pivotal role in Bangladesh's economy and the necessity for sustainable production practices to meet global market standards, especially as Bangladesh navigates changes post-LDC graduation. He acknowledged ongoing challenges such as health risks in waste sorting, urging concerted efforts to address these issues comprehensively. Janowski concluded by expressing Germany's commitment to supporting Bangladesh's circular economy initiatives, citing collaborative projects with stakeholders like H&M that offer practical solutions for sustainable RMG waste recycling.



# Thijs Woudstra

**Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh**

GUEST OF HONOR

Thijs Woudstra addressed the pivotal role of Bangladesh's garment industry on the global stage. Acknowledging the sector's significant economic impact and its environmental challenges, especially in light of Bangladesh's transition from LDC status, he highlighted the importance of embracing circular economy principles as a transformative opportunity.

Drawing on the Netherlands' experience as a leader in circular economy practices, with substantial waste reduction achievements and a commitment to full circularity by 2050, Woudstra underscored the potential for Bangladesh to benefit from Dutch expertise. Key initiatives proposed included formalizing waste management processes, integrating informal sectors into textile recycling, and enhancing supply chain traceability.

Woudstra expressed optimism about the future collaboration between Bangladesh and the Netherlands, envisioning both countries as leaders in sustainable garment production. He concluded by encouraging continued innovation and collaboration at future Circular Economy Summits, aiming for tangible progress in advancing sustainable practices in Bangladesh's RMG sector.



The Netherlands envisions a future where both countries collaborate not just in trade but as leaders in sustainable garment production.



# Mostafiz Uddin

**Founder & CEO,  
Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE)**

GUEST OF HONOR



We all have to work together to bring the change. The change starts from you, the change starts from me.

Mr. Mostafiz Uddin, Founder & CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE), kicked off the summit with a compelling speech at the Circular Economy Summit, highlighting the evolution and challenges of promoting circularity in Bangladesh's apparel industry.

He began by acknowledging the transformative journey since 2016, emphasizing the initial struggles to gain recognition for circular economy concepts in the country. Despite these challenges, he expressed pride in the significant progress achieved, such as the establishment of a model sorting center in Dhaka and organizing impactful events like the Bangladesh Circular Economy Summit.

Throughout his speech, Mr. Uddin emphasized the importance of collective action and government support to further advance circularity in Bangladesh. He underscored the need for policy reforms to allow the importation of second-hand garments and the establishment of more recycling plants within the country. His call for collaboration resonated with the audience, urging stakeholders to play their part in realizing Bangladesh's potential as a global leader in sustainable apparel manufacturing.



# Unveiling of the Circularity Report

The report "Fashion, Circular Economy & Bangladesh," released by the visionary leader Mostafiz Uddin, Founder & CEO, Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE) was unveiled during the Summit.

This comprehensive report highlights the critical importance of circularity in the fashion industry, showcasing both economic and environmental benefits for Bangladesh. Drawing from global best practices, the report provides a roadmap for innovative recycling initiatives, demonstrating how embracing a circular economy can transform the industry. It offers valuable insights and practical strategies for stakeholders looking to drive sustainable growth and make a positive impact.



Scan QR Code or  
**Click Here** to Read  
the Report

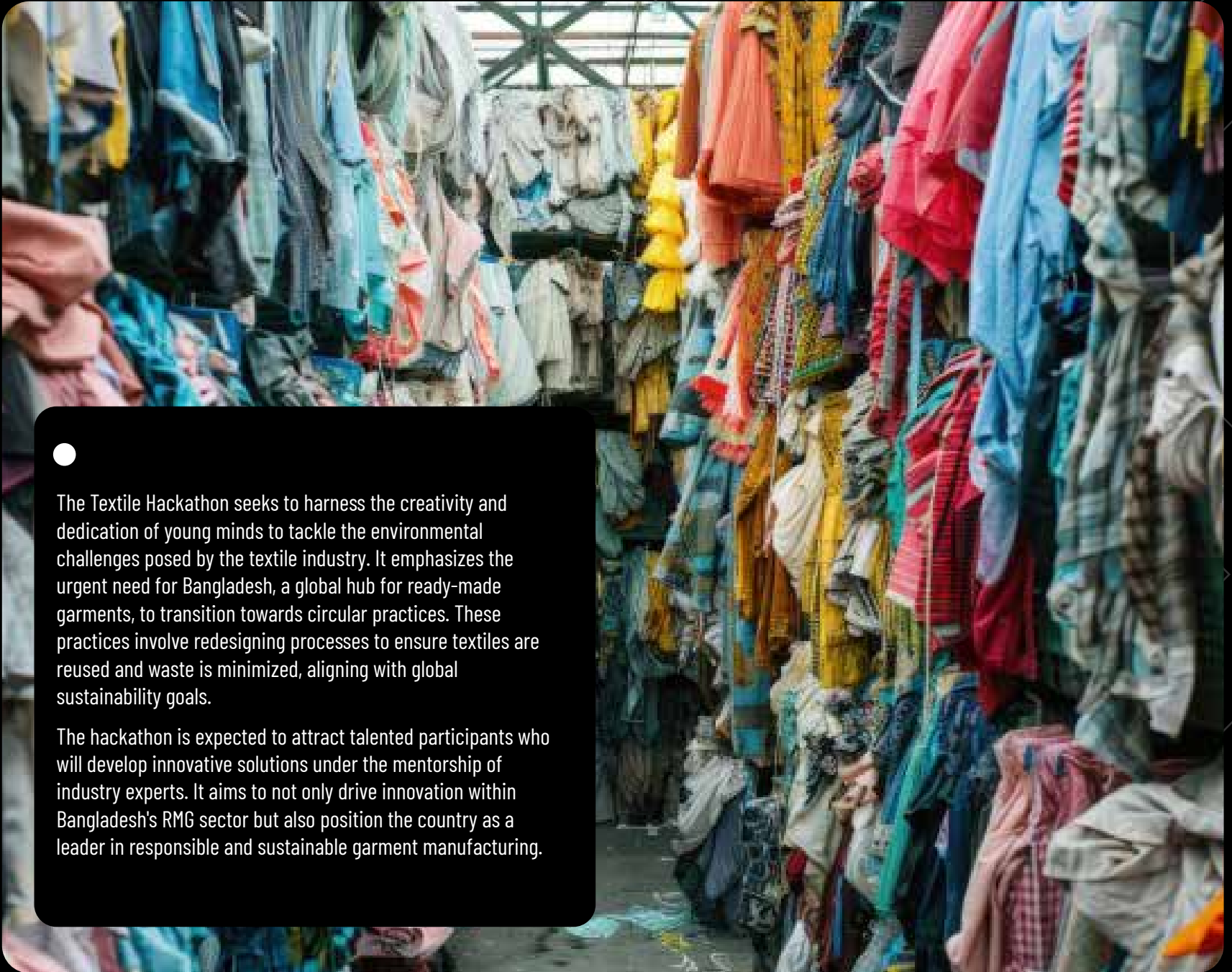




# Textile Hack Announcement

Thijs Woudstra, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh, announced the inauguration of the Circular Textile Hackathon during the Bangladesh Circular Economy Summit. This collaborative effort involves Bangladesh Apparel Exchange, BGMEA University of Fashion Technology, and the University of Groningen. The initiative is supported by the Dutch Enterprise Agency, reflecting international collaboration towards sustainable development.





The Textile Hackathon seeks to harness the creativity and dedication of young minds to tackle the environmental challenges posed by the textile industry. It emphasizes the urgent need for Bangladesh, a global hub for ready-made garments, to transition towards circular practices. These practices involve redesigning processes to ensure textiles are reused and waste is minimized, aligning with global sustainability goals.

The hackathon is expected to attract talented participants who will develop innovative solutions under the mentorship of industry experts. It aims to not only drive innovation within Bangladesh's RMG sector but also position the country as a leader in responsible and sustainable garment manufacturing.







# Formalizing the Informal Jhoot Sector

PANEL SESSION 01





The first panel focused on “Formalizing the Informal Jhoot Sector” delved into critical issues within Bangladesh's textile sector, emphasizing the need to formalize the informal jhoot sector and improve recycling waste management. Discussions centered on achieving transparency through formal integration of informal systems, aligning recycling practices with international regulations, and fostering broader sustainability initiatives such as renewable energy adoption. The panel underscored the absence of a formal circular policy in Bangladesh compared to other countries and called for strategic planning, industry incentives, and collaborative efforts to advance towards a circular economy.



## Michael Klode

**Project Manager, Programme for Sustainability in the Textile and Leather Sector (STILE), GIZ, Bangladesh**

Michael Klode emphasized Bangladesh's textile sector successes and areas needing improvement, including challenges in jhoot and recycling waste management. He stressed transparency and formalization, advocating for integrating informal systems formally. Key study points from GIZ and H&M highlighted high-value circular opportunities, solutions for the informal jute sector, and the need for data transparency to enhance waste management. Collaboration among stakeholders was underscored for achieving a sustainable



By including informal systems in a formalized and transparent way, everybody will gain, everybody will make more money, and the conditions for the people that work in those industries will also get better.

## Gagan Bansal

**Circular Innovation Lab, Material & Process Impact Manager, H&M Group**

Gagan Bansal outlined H&M Group's vision to transition from a linear to a circular business model, emphasizing the comprehensive nature of circularity beyond just recycling.

H&M, since 2020, has recycled 8,500 tons of waste using Reverse Resources. Bansal highlighted Bangladesh's lack of a formal circular policy compared to Vietnam, China, and Turkey. She emphasized strategic planning, industry incentives, technology adoption, renewable energy, and formalizing the informal sector to foster transparency and create jobs, urging collective action for a circular economy vision.



While we started with challenges, we now have recommendations that can transform the industry. We have made significant progress, but there is still room for growth.



## Asadun Noor

Coordinator, Global SWITCH to Circular Economy Project, UNIDO Bangladesh

Asadun Noor emphasized the pivotal role of informal sectors in Bangladesh's economy, citing an ILO study advocating their transition to formality. He highlighted the Switch to Circular Economy Value Chains project, supporting textile, plastic, and ICT sectors across various countries to align with EU regulations. Noor underscored the need for swift industry transitions and stronger commitments to sustain international trade relationships.



Without economic return or growth, maintaining the sustainability of a value chain or economic shift is challenging.

## Rumi Akter

Research Associate, Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), BRAC University

Rumi Akter discussed a collaborative project addressing climate change and global value chains, focusing on recycling clusters in Bangladesh. She highlighted challenges faced by workers, especially women, and called for a strategic approach to align garment recycling with EU regulations and enhance industry sustainability. Akter emphasized the need for broader circular practices encompassing renewable energy and improved working conditions, advocating for transparency and traceability in achieving these goals.



Circularity extends beyond recycling jhoot scraps to include dimensions like renewable energy. We must focus on these aspects for the well-being of our industry and our country.



# Closing The Loop of Textile Waste

PANEL SESSION 02





The panel emphasized the urgent environmental challenges posed by Bangladesh's textile industry, generating millions of tons of waste annually. They advocated for establishing a closed-loop system domestically to reduce carbon emissions from waste exports and create local economic opportunities. Key topics included the role of digital product passports in enhancing traceability across industries, plans for phased implementation by the EU starting in 2027, and the need for extensive data collection to support circular economy practices. Discussions also highlighted the feasibility of mechanical recycling in achieving high recycled content and the importance of formalizing recycling sectors and improving waste management practices.



## Md. Akhter Hossain Apurbo

Vice President, BKMEA

Md. Akhter Hossain Apurbo emphasized Bangladesh's role in global cotton product exports and advocated for exploring non-cotton alternatives. He stressed the need for a localized circular economy to reduce environmental impacts from exporting waste and highlighted BGMEA's efforts in recycling and traceability. Apurbo called for government support to formalize informal recycling sectors in key areas like Dhaka and Gazipur, aiming to balance certification requirements with economic benefits for Bangladesh.



If we do the same certification using our local bodies in Bangladesh, then we can keep a lot of US dollars in our country, which ultimately will help our economy grow.

## Mohammed Sohel Sadat

Chairman, Shin Shin Group and Director, BGMEA

Mohammed Sohel Sadat discussed BGMEA's initiatives to advance circularity in Bangladesh's garment sector, focusing on pre-consumer waste recycling. Collaborating with brands, retailers, and waste handlers, BGMEA aims to create a supportive policy environment for circular fashion. Challenges in waste collection, sorting, and traceability were acknowledged. The ESG Digital Data Disclosure Platform, supported by GIZ, will integrate circularity data and waste flow mapping to enhance industry sustainability efforts.



We have to support formal players where fair jobs, traceability, and transparency are available. Only the formal sector will be able to promote circularity as a real advantage for the entire sector. The entire industry needs to be formalized.



## Asif Zahir

Deputy Managing Director,  
Ananta Group

Asif Zahir emphasized Bangladesh's urgent need to adopt a circular economy approach, focusing on recycling pre-consumer waste within the textile industry. He highlighted significant waste generation in spinning, weaving, and garment manufacturing, estimated at 15% to 20% of total consumption. Zahir advocated for localizing recycling efforts to save foreign currency spent on imports, stressing the feasibility of mechanical recycling to achieve high recycled content in products. He proposed organizational improvements in waste collection and digital data management, suggesting spinning mills take a lead role due to their infrastructure and expertise.



Today, let's focus on our own waste which is the pre-consumer waste, and that's an opportunity that we can easily organize and capture within the next one or two years. We can solve this problem.

## Micke Magnusson

Entrepreneur in Residence,  
Enviu

Micke stressed the importance of establishing a closed-loop system for textile waste within Bangladesh's industry. He highlighted the need to start with sorting and collecting usable feedstock locally to reduce dependency on exports. Magnusson underscored the necessity of formalizing transactions and companies, addressing technical challenges like material purity, and proving the business case for sorting technologies. He emphasized that supporting local recycling initiatives and onshoring relevant technologies are critical steps towards achieving circularity in the textile sector.



We have to start from the very basics. We need to support formal players where fair jobs, traceability, and transparency are available, and only then will we be able to promote circularity as a real advantage for the entire sector.



## Patrick Schröder

Senior Research Fellow,  
Chatham House

Patrick Schröder discussed the concept of digital product passports as crucial for achieving traceability in the textile and other industries. He emphasized their application beyond textiles to products like batteries, aiming to capture lifecycle information from sourcing to disposal. The EU leads in developing these passports, with plans for phased implementation starting in 2027 and aiming for full circularity by 2033. This initiative underscores the importance of extensive data collection, relevant globally including in Bangladesh, to enhance transparency and support circular economy practices across supply chains.



The development of digital product passports represents a pivotal shift towards comprehensive traceability in global supply chains.

## Omar Gias

Director (Strategic Engagements),  
Bangladesh Apparel Exchange

Omar Gias highlighted the severe environmental challenge posed by Bangladesh's apparel industry, which annually generates about 4 million tons of textile waste. He pointed out that globally, less than 1% of clothing materials are recycled into new garments, a trend likely reflected in Bangladesh where much textile waste is exported to East Asian countries for recycling, contributing to significant carbon emissions from transportation. He advocated for closing the textile waste loop domestically to reduce carbon emissions from export and create local economic opportunities, aligning with sustainable practices and Bangladesh's environmental goals.



The solution lies in closing the loop within Bangladesh's borders by developing a localized circular economy.





# Circular Design : Reality Vs Challenges

PANEL SESSION 03





The panel discussed the urgent need for Bangladesh's apparel industry to adopt circular design practices to enhance sustainability and maintain competitiveness. Key topics included the focus on waste reduction, product longevity, and the complexities and costs associated with recycling. There was emphasis on policy changes to support recycling initiatives, reduce barriers like double VAT on recycled products, and foster collaboration across supply chains. The importance of consumer preferences shifting towards sustainability and the role of data-driven approaches, innovation, and holistic environmental considerations were highlighted to advance circular practices despite industry challenges.



## Mustafain Munir

President,  
CYCLO Recycled Fibers

Mustafain Munir highlighted challenges in integrating circular principles into textile recycling. He emphasized the gap between Gen Z's sustainability ideals and actual purchasing behavior, influenced by fast fashion trends. Munir noted advancements in mechanical recycling for high-quality waste but highlighted the scaling issues of chemical recycling, citing financial constraints and market challenges. He stressed the economic viability and quality parity with virgin materials as critical for sustainable recycling solutions.



Recycling processes need to be as good as, or almost the same as, the virgin form. Technologies in the pipeline are in pilot stages but not yet at scale production. The problem is price, and scale has always worked in linear models but is untested in circular models.

## Abrar Sayem

Director,  
BGMEA

Abrar Sayem emphasized the urgency for Bangladesh to embrace circular design practices to maintain competitiveness. He highlighted the shift in consumer preferences towards sustainability and the importance of designing products with recycling and longevity in mind. Sayem called for policy changes to support recycling initiatives and reduce barriers like double VAT on recycled products. He stressed collaboration across supply chains and international partnerships to drive R&D and accelerate adoption of circular practices in the apparel industry.



Circular design is a present reality. It's not a long-term future; it's something that we are already adapting around the world.



## Dewan Nurul Islam

**Chemical & Environment Manager,  
Bestseller**

Dewan Nurul Islam discussed the textile industry's progress and challenges in adopting circularity, highlighting their participation in a three-year pilot project and early initiatives. He emphasized the need for increased industry awareness and an action plan to overcome ingrained practices and achieve traceability. Islam noted technological challenges in handling blended fabrics but stressed the importance of advancing circular practices despite obstacles. He highlighted consumer awareness, especially among Gen Z, as a potential catalyst for change, while urging collaborative efforts to promote sustainable practices.



Circularity and sustainability are necessary to save our planet. From our side, wherever we are, we need to try to raise awareness and develop business cases. Then, I believe, it will move forward.

## Md Monower Hossain

**Head of Sustainability,  
TEAM Group**

Monower Hossain emphasized sustainability and circularity in reducing environmental impact, advocating for efficient resource use and cultural alignment in initiatives. He highlighted the significance of considering logistics' carbon footprint and designing products for recyclability. Hossain pointed out consumer influence in fashion and TEAM Group's practices using denim and leftover fabrics. He stressed the importance of data-driven approaches, continuous innovation, and holistic environmental consideration in advancing circular practices.



It's about trying and innovating. We have a long way to go, but before running into a dark road, we need proper data and understanding to guide us in the right direction.



# Khalid Hossain

Director,  
Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE)

Khalid Hossain emphasized the imperative of circular design for sustainability, highlighting its focus on waste reduction and product longevity. He identified challenges such as recycling complexities and cost concerns, underscoring the need for skill development, collaboration, and supportive policies to advance circular practices in Bangladesh's apparel industry.



For Bangladesh, embracing circular practices and design is not just an environmental necessity but also a strategic imperative to remain competitive in the global market.







# Transparency & Traceability in Circularity

PANEL SESSION 04





The panel emphasized the critical need for transparency and traceability in the global fashion industry, particularly through initiatives like digital passport systems and software platforms. Key topics included enhancing collaboration among stakeholders, sharing best practices, and overcoming barriers such as technological integration and economic viability. Discussions highlighted the role of foundations in promoting sustainability, challenges in waste management, and efforts by industry bodies to train factories on ESG issues. The panel also underscored the transformative potential of ecodesign principles and technological advancements like blockchain and AI in driving the adoption of circular practices across the textile value chain.



## Mohammed Sohel

**Managing Director,  
Bangla Poshak Limited**

Sohel emphasized the textile industry's commitment to transparency and compliance, positioning it as a leader in global textile manufacturing. He highlighted initiatives by BGMEA to train factories on ESG issues and environmental due diligence, aiming to enhance awareness and practices across member factories. He also drew attention to the challenges faced by smaller factories in implementing sustainable practices, particularly in managing waste. He proposed collaborative solutions involving larger factories and government policy support to address these challenges and integrate SME factories into the circular economy.



We welcome transparency because we consider ourselves the most transparent, compliant, and safest textile industry in the world.

## Mumit Hasan

**Director of Business & Operations,  
Reverse Resources Bangladesh**

Mumit Hasan describes Reverse Resources as a software-as-a-service platform designed for stakeholders in the textile value chain. It facilitates tracking and tracing textile waste from manufacturers to recyclers. He explains the process of establishing traceability through invitations among stakeholders on the platform. He emphasizes that Reverse Resources focuses on the reverse supply chain, providing transparency where it is currently lacking. The platform aims to address questions about waste production, recycling processes, and responsible disposal, offering a solution to embed traceability throughout the textile value chain.



The beautiful part of the Reverse Resources platform is that there is already established linear traceability. From fiber to yarn to fabric to product to the consumer, that linear supply chain is already traced.



## Lakshmi Poti

Senior Programme Manager, Fashion,  
Laudes Foundation

Lakshmi Poti highlights the foundation's role in fostering transparency and sustainability in the fashion industry. She acknowledges progress in supplier transparency but emphasizes the need for broader transparency in circularity and waste management. Poti identifies collaboration, technological integration, and economic viability as key barriers to achieving these goals. She underscores the human impact of waste management and discusses initiatives supported by Laudes Foundation to innovate sustainable practices globally.



Waste is not only a climate or nature problem; it's also a people problem.

## Raisul Kabir

Founder and CEO,  
Brain Station 23

Raisul Kabir highlights the pivotal role of technology, including blockchain, AI, and IoT, in advancing the circular economy. Kabir emphasizes the need for awareness and commitment from suppliers and producers to integrate technology effectively, supported by initiatives like the second-year initiative. Buyer demand for traceability and transparency is crucial in driving adoption of circular practices, facilitated by advancements in AI for lifecycle tracking and recycling. Kabir asserts that, with existing technology and platforms, achieving transparency and traceability in the circular economy is inevitable.



With technology and platforms already available, it's a matter of when, not if, we achieve transparency and traceability in the circular economy.



## Titus van der Spek

Senior Researcher,  
The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Titus explores the challenges and opportunities of integrating ecodesign principles into the fast-paced apparel sector. He argues that ecodesign, which emphasizes local resources, sustainability, and quality over quantity, is fundamentally at odds with the current fast fashion model. Titus advocates for a shift towards collaborative approaches involving Western and local designers, investment in biobased materials with transparent supply chains, and the cultivation of circularity through innovation and education. He stresses the importance of collaboration among universities, governments, and industry stakeholders to drive sustainable innovation and create an entrepreneurial ecosystem for youth in Bangladesh.



Circularity requires a 'we' narrative rather than an 'I' narrative. I encourage us to embrace that.

## Mr. Ashim Rahman

Policy Advisor – Business Development. Embassy of the  
Kingdom of Netherlands in Bangladesh

Ashim Rahman proposed implementing a digital passport system for Bangladeshi garments to enhance transparency and traceability. This system would detail materials, manufacturing processes, and certifications, benefiting stakeholders like brands, retailers, policymakers, recyclers, and consumers. Rahman underscored the session's significance in fostering collaboration, sharing best practices, and addressing challenges to promote ethical sourcing and reduce environmental impact through circular practices in the global fashion industry.



For the RMG sector, this transparency would boost consumer confidence in Bangladeshi garments, promote ethical sourcing, and minimize waste and environmental impact.





# Presentations





# On EU Due Diligence and Legislations On Circularity

PRESENTATION 01



## Charles Whiteley

Head Of The Delegation, Delegation of The European Union In Bangladesh

*Charles Whiteley highlighted the EU's commitment to global sustainability and circular economy principles. He emphasized upcoming EU legislative changes in due diligence and ecodesign, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050. Whiteley praised Bangladesh's proactive steps in sustainability and LDC graduation readiness, noting EU support through initiatives like the SWITCH to Circular Economy Program and Team Europe framework.*

---

Our shared commitment to sustainability and circularity is not just regulatory but also a pathway to economic resilience and global competitiveness.



# On Market Incentives for Eco-Design: The Case of Eco-Modulation

PRESENTATION 02



*Prof. Harri Kalimo presented ecodesign and extended producer responsibility (EPR) as pivotal policies for advancing circular economies, drawing from Europe's experiences. EPR shifts waste management costs to producers, encouraging them to design products for easier recycling. He discussed challenges with EPR's collective implementation through producer responsibility organizations (PROs) and proposed Ecomodulation as a solution. This approach involves varying fees or incentives based on a product's environmental attributes, aiming to strengthen incentives for sustainable design and improve waste management efficiency.*

---

Ecomodulation is emerging as a part of the extended producer responsibility scheme, trying to tackle the problem of lacking design incentives, but there remain quite a few challenges in its implementation.



**Prof. Harri Kalimo**  
Brussels University



# On A National Circular Textile Roadmap for Bangladesh

PRESENTATION 03



## Patrick Schroeder

Senior Research Fellow,  
Chatham House



*Patrick Schroeder presented research on national circular economy road maps, highlighting their global adoption and potential benefits for Bangladesh under the "SWITCH to Circular Value Chains" program led by UNIDO and funded by the EU. Emphasizing comprehensive policy approaches, Schroeder suggested clustering existing policies into a textile-specific strategy or broader economy-wide circular economy strategy for Bangladesh. Key components include subsidies, incentives, investment funds, and support for labor conditions and new business models. The proposed road map would focus on circular materials, waste management, education, R&D, and public-private partnerships, aiming for phased implementation over the next five years.*

---

The circular economy transition is not only an environmental issue but is also relevant for society, labor, working conditions, and new business models.



# Mapping The Way for Rmg Circularity

BREAKOUT SESSION





The breakout session on 'Mapping the Way for RMG Circularity,' organized by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh and facilitated by Titus van der Spek, brought together academics, manufacturers, startups, recycling experts, professionals, and the press. Attendees gained an in-depth understanding of what circularity is through the expert session. The session introduced the Textile Hack, outlining its goals. During an engaging group exercise, participants discussed how Bangladesh is integrating circularity into its economic framework, assessing the feasibility and understanding of circular economy practices. The session provided valuable insights into advancing circularity in Bangladesh's RMG sector.



# Key Policy Recommendations

Incorporating data availability, transparency, and traceability in the supply chain.



Introducing industry guidelines for jhoot management and recycling.



Implementing changes in VAT & tariff rules for the jhoot transactions to make them more formal.



Providing economic incentives to formalize collection and sorting.





# Key Policy Recommendations

Establishing a central depository system for decent work and social inclusion.



Investing in state-of-the-art recycling technologies.



Widespread implementation of EPR regulations to make sorting easier.



Supporting the adoption of circular business models such as rental, leasing, and repair services.





# Print & Social Media Outreach

**44+**

Journalists Covered  
the Event

**73+**

Content Viewed  
from 73+ Countries

**1M+**

Impressions through  
Print & Social Media

**784**

Shares in Social Media  
Channels

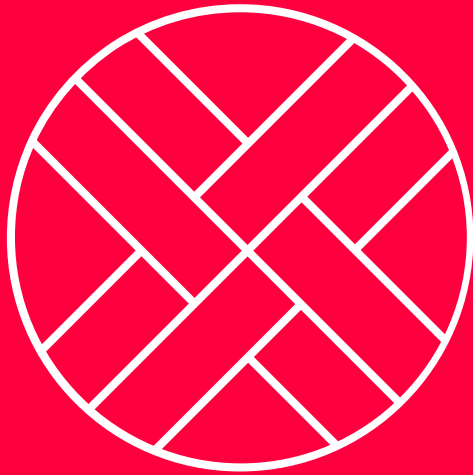
**2K+**

Mentions in Social  
Media Channels

**50+**

TV and Print Media  
Coverages





# BANGLADESH CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUMMIT

2nd Edition

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

**MOSTAFIZ UDDIN**  
FOUNDER & CEO,  
BANGLADESH APPAREL EXCHANGE (BAE)  
MUDDIN@MOSTAFIZ.ORG  
+880 1730-035100

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT NOW:

[WWW.BANGLADESHCIRCULARECONOMYSUMMIT.COM](http://WWW.BANGLADESHCIRCULARECONOMYSUMMIT.COM)  
+880 1730-035100

ORGANIZED BY



IN COLLABORATION WITH



Implemented by:  
**giz**  
Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Kingdom of the Netherlands