



P R E S S INFORMATION NOTICE

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Ministry of Land and European Union Launch New Land Reform Initiative

The Ministry of Land and the European Union have launched today a new land reform project. Among the high-level speakers at the inception workshop in the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital were Md. Rezaul Karim Hira, the Minister of Land and William Hanna, the European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh.

"For the European Union this is a new field in our cooperation with Bangladesh. We know that if we want development to be sustainable we have to address the root causes of underdevelopment. And we know how much problems in land administration affect citizens of this country, often with serious adverse consequences. This is why we have entered into this difficult sector and are committed to supporting this pilot programme," said William Hanna, the European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh.

The main objective of the programme is to strengthen access to land and property rights for all citizens of Bangladesh. At national Level the project will support the development of a National Land Policy. Furthermore, working at the policy, legislative and institutional level, the project aims at assisting the government in setting up a registration system that is able to produce an authoritative record of landownership.

At upazila level the project will contribute to a land administration that should in future be easier to access for the clients of the respective offices. In order to realise these reforms, support will also be provided to the Ministry in its ongoing work on modernising the land surveying techniques and digitalisation of land records. Operations will be conducted Dhaka, but also in four upazilas (Jamalpur Sadar, Amtali, Mohanpur and Monirampur).

Under the programme a technical assistance team has been deployed to Bangladesh in November 2012 to assist the Ministry. At the inception workshop, team leader Andre Hernandez from the implementing consortium NIRAS, Finnmap and PDP Australia presented the findings and conclusions of work so far. Also a civil society project has been launched already that is being implemented by the Bangladeshi NGO Uttaran and its partners Manusher Jonno Foundation and Care. The Ministry of Land will receive equipment from the European Union within this project of a value of around 1 million Euro and some operational funding as implementation support. The overall amount allocated by the European Union for this new Land-project is 10 million Euro (about 100 crore Taka).

For more information, please contact: Ms Anjum Aziz, EU Delegation to Bangladesh, Tel: +880 2 8824730, Anjum.Aziz@eeas.europa.eu,

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".