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WRAP AND BGMEA SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP) and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This agreement - between the world's largest independent facility-based social compliance certification and education organization for the sewn products sector and the apex trade body that represents the export-oriented woven, knit, and sweater garment manufacturers and exporters of Bangladesh- creates a partnership that will help foster social compliance in Bangladesh's RMG sector. This MoU further solidifies Bangladesh's commitment to socially responsible manufacturing by pooling the resources of two key players in the industry. Together, WRAP and the BGMEA will promote ethical manufacturing practices in Bangladesh through compliance with WRAP's 12 Principles, as well as facilitating comprehensive educational programs for both factory workers and managers that will show how to put these Principles into practice within individual facilities.

Avedis Seferian, President and CEO of WRAP, applauded the agreement. "This is a critical juncture for the RMG sector in Bangladesh. The recent tragedies there have shocked the world. We must ensure they never happen again and that is what WRAP and the BGMEA are partnering together for. WRAP has always believed that industry has to be at the front and center when it comes to social compliance, and the BGMEA, as the main industry association in Bangladesh, is in a unique position to provide the leadership needed for the sector. I look forward to working with them to help promote socially responsible manufacturing in Bangladesh. We are all familiar with the terrible stories that have made the headlines of late; our work together will help ensure that the RMG sector can have good stories to tell, as Bangladesh rises to the challenge of improving working conditions and making sure their biggest export industry is also a socially responsible one," says Seferian.

Atiqul Islam, President of the BGMEA, was equally enthusiastic. “We are very excited about this agreement with WRAP. We want to work in a team addressing the challenges facing Bangladesh in a coordinated manner to achieve sustainable development in the future. In the globalized marketplace, responsibility has become a synonym to sustainability and we have set our priority in the area of ensuring safety and security to our workers and employees by ensuring proper working conditions at factories. Businesses can no longer be viable without being responsible to the society,” says Islam.

About WRAP

WRAP is an independent, objective, non-profit team of global social compliance experts dedicated to promoting safe, lawful, humane and ethical manufacturing around the world through certification and education. www.wrapcompliance.org

About BGMEA

BGMEA is the apex trade body that represents the export-oriented woven, knit, and sweater garment manufacturers and exporters of Bangladesh. www.bgmea.com.bd

