

**Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Private Sector  
Consultative Board (PSCB) of the International Jute Study  
Group (IJSG)**

**Gaziantep, Turkey  
07-08 December 2011**

## **Inaugural Session**

The inaugural session and the Buyer-Seller Meet were held at the South East Anatolian Carpet Exporters' Union (SEACEU) Meeting Hall at Gaziantep, Turkey on 07 December 2011. Mr. Rezaul Karim, Chairman of PSCB welcomed the delegates and the guests to the meeting. H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Turkey, President of Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce, President of Gaziantep Carpet Exporters Union, President of South East Anatolian Carpet Exporters Union and the Secretary General of IJSG spoke on the occasion while Mr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Secretary, PSCB offered vote of thanks.

The Chairman, PSCB in his welcome address mentioned that IJSG attaches much importance to Turkey because of high volume of the trade of jute products in Turkey and as such IJSG is holding the PSCB meeting along with the buyer-seller meet in Turkey to involve Turkey and the Turkish traders in the affairs of IJSG. He requested the Turkish associations and traders to join IJSG as associate members so as to facilitate us to work together with a view to increasing trade relationship through sharing of ideas and views with each other.

The President of Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce welcomed all the participants to the inaugural session and thanked IJSG for holding the 12<sup>th</sup> PSCB meeting in Turkey. He expressed his contentment that this will increase our mutual business relationship and widen the business possibilities.

H.E. Zulfiqur Rahman the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Turkey in his speech said that he was happy to be present in the meeting and expressed his thanks to the IJSG for holding this important meeting in Turkey and for inviting him to participate in the meeting. He specially thanked Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce and South East Anatolian Carpet Exporters Union for their cooperation in holding the meeting.

He said that the trade figures between Turkey and Bangladesh is encouraging. He, however, remarked that currently the jute trade is having a challenging time while bilateral trade is registering a growth which is about 1 billion US Dollar and Bangladesh is working to make it more. He referred to the discussions in the international conference on climate change and hoped that a legally binding agreement will be signed that will be helpful for the growth of natural fibres. He remarked that IJSG is an important intergovernmental organisation and currently it has 159 associate members from 20 countries. He added that IJSG has been doing a great job and needs support from all Members for its continuance. He stated that Turkey has a great role to play in the jute economy and also IJSG.

The Secretary General welcomed H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh and all the participants and guests to the meeting. He expressed his contentment at the presence of large number of Turkish participants in the meeting and stated that IJSG recognises the importance of Gaziantep. He expressed his thanks to H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh, President of Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce and President of South East Anatolian Carpet Exporters Union for their interest and cooperation extended to IJSG in organising the meeting. He invited Turkey to be a member country of IJSG.

Mr. Md. Aslan, President of Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce welcomed H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh, the Secretary General of IJSG and all the participants and hoped that the meeting will be a successful one.

Mr. Abdul Quader Chikmas welcomed the participants from Bangladesh, Nepal and Turkey. He remarked that this meeting would act as a bridge of cooperation between exporters and importers of jute. He remarked that there is not enough cooperation in business and we should work to develop friendly relationship amongst us and emphasized on the development of more trade links. He remarked that previously Turkey produced 120 million tonnes of carpet which has reduced to 106 million tonnes in 2011. But he expects that it will increase upto 200 million tonnes in future.

## **Business Session**

### **A. Opening of the meeting**

The Twelfth Meeting of the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) of the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) was held in Novotel Hotel in Gaziantep, Turkey on **December 08, 2011** under the Chairmanship of Mr. Rezaul Karim, Chairman of PSCB. The dignitaries present in the meeting were Mr. Bhupendra Singh, Secretary General of IJSG; Mrs. Shameema Sultana, Joint Secretary, MOTJ, Mrs. Akhtari Begum, Deputy Secretary, MOTJ, Mr. Khondoker Mokhlesur Rahman, Executive Director, JDPC; Mr. Abu Sayed, Director (BJMC). A complete list of the participants is placed at **Annex-I**.

#### **Secretary General's remarks**

The Secretary General of IJSG, Mr. Bhupendra Singh thanked and welcomed all the participants. He stated that, the buyer-seller meet on December 7, 2011 was successful and business deals worth of thousand of US dollars have been made. The Secretary General pointed out the potentials of jute and future applications. He stated that cost reduction of jute products is a very important thing. At the same time, the interest of the farmers must also be kept under consideration.

He thanked all the participants. He urged the members to come out of the personal business interests and look into future. He proposed to have a holistic view of the market for own benefit.

#### **PSCB Secretary's remarks**

Mr. Md. Siddiqui Rahman, Consultant (Operations) & Secretary, PSCB welcomed the delegates to the meeting. He expressed his gratitude to the Embassy of Bangladesh to Turkey and Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce, Turkey for extending cooperation in organising the meeting. He noted the presence of the representatives of the Agriculture department from Adana, Turkey. He expressed his happiness to see the presence of delegates from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Turkey and stated that this would contribute towards the development and growth of the global jute sector.

#### **Chairman's remarks**

Mr. Rezaul Karim, Chairman of the PSCB welcomed all the distinguished delegates to the Twelfth PSCB Meeting. He referred to the various events that have taken place since the last meeting, highlighting the importance on increasing the number of Associate Members.

Referring to the agenda of the meeting he remarked that the delegates would discuss the issues and contribute in making appropriate recommendations.

### **A.1. Adoption of Agenda**

The meeting adopted the provisional agenda of the Twelfth Meeting as contained in **Document CB (XII)/1** and reproduced in **Annex-II**. A list of Associate Members as on November 20, 2011 is given at **Annex-III**. An updated list of documents pertaining to the agenda is given at **Annex-IV**.

### **A.4. Report on Associate Membership of IJSG**

The IJSG Secretariat presented a report on the status of Associate Membership of IJSG as on November 20, 2011 and informed the meeting that 159 Associate Members have, so far, been approved by the Council of IJSG.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the IJSG Secretariat has sent invitation letters to different Associations, Organisations and entities of various countries to join IJSG as Associate Members. He requested all to take initiative to increase the number of Associate Members.

The Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) reviewed the status of the Associate Members of IJSG and suggested that the PSCB should have more Associate Members to include exporters, importers, traders, market experts, manufacturers together to make the Board more effective. The Board observed that letters of request may be sent from the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the PSCB to all prospective Associate Members, particularly in consuming countries to join as Associate Members (**Agenda item A.4**).

The PSCB noted the comments of the delegates and requested the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen to continue efforts to get more Associate Members (**Agenda item A4**).

The PSCB noted the position of renewal of Associate Membership. The PSCB decided to send letters of request to all Associate Members to renew their membership on time. (**Agenda item A.4**).

#### **A.5. Financial Status of Associate Members' Contribution**

The PSCB noted the financial statement of Associate Members' contribution as given at **Annex-3** of Document **CB (XII)/1**.

The Chairman remarked that the PSCB fund may be spent for appropriate purposes and for the development of the jute sector by undertaking an important task / activity like organising training programme for the skill development of jute mill personnel and other programmes as felt necessary and agreed upon by the Associate Members.

The Board noted the financial statement of the PSCB (**Agenda item A5**).

### **B. Review and discussions on new ideas and recommendations made in the Eleventh meeting of the PSCB**

#### **2a) Sharing of information generated including technologies developed by R&D Institutions on jute and jute goods and related matters.**

The IJSG Secretariat informed the meeting of the successful organizations of Seminars/Workshops in Nepal, Malaysia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Syria and participation as a partner in organizing International Symposium on Kenaf and Allied Fibres in China, International Symposium on Jute and Allied fibre Production, Utilisation and Marketing in Kolkata, India and International Symposium on Renewable Feedstock for Bio-fuel and Bio-based Products in Austin, USA to promote sharing of information on R&D activities on jute and allied fibres as well as membership drive for the IJSG.

The Secretariat also informed that it is taking initiative to organize Seminars/Workshops in other interested countries like Australia, Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand etc. on jute related aspects and on the findings of various projects undertaken by the IJSG.

The Chairman remarked that the Workshops or Seminars may be organized in other countries as well which are interested. He further remarked that as IJSG is always in close contact with the Research and Development organizations of the different countries and it may get in touch with them and request them to share their knowledge and expertise with IJSG.

The Board requested the IJSG Secretariat to hold similar Workshops in identified countries like Australia/Indonesia/Thailand to promote sharing of information on R&D activities as well as on development of technologies apart from the drive on new membership for IJSG.

The Board also requested the Associate Members countries to send the reports of any study undertaken by their respective R&D Institutions/Organisations/Associations to the IJSG Secretariat so that the Secretariat could inform all the Associate Members of these reports/ studies.

The Board requested the Associate Members to assist the IJSG Secretariat in holding a Workshop/Seminar in a suitable country interested in the matter.

## **2b) Tariffs on Jute and Jute products and non-tariff barriers relating to these products.**

The Chairman remarked that this is an important issue and compilation of database of tariffs and non-tariff barriers is necessary for trading of jute and jute products. The exporters could provide relevant and correct information on tariffs and type of barriers they face in exporting their goods.

The IJSG Secretariat requested all the associate members to provide necessary information so that the Secretariat could take up the matter with relevant International Bodies.

The PSCB decided to take necessary steps to compile a database of tariffs on Jute and Jute products and non-tariff barriers as well as logistic barriers relating to Jute and Jute products in different producing and importing countries. The Board requested all Associate Members to submit information in this regard to the IJSG Secretariat for compilation.

The Board recommended to the Council to appeal to all importing countries to suitably remove/reduce tariffs and to remove non-tariff barriers on Jute, Jute products, Jute machinery and spares.

## **2c) Strategy for promotion of marketing of technical textiles including jute geo-textiles**

The Secretariat informed that the IJSG is implementing a project on jute geo-textiles to develop standards and specifications suitable for various applications like soil erosion control, agro-plant mulching and rural road pavement construction. It was also mentioned that geo-textile is one area and there are agro-textiles which need attention.

The delegate of JDPC, Mr. Rahman, remarked that geo-textile is a very interesting area and a lot of R&D activities have been done in India and Bangladesh on the applications of jute geo-textiles. He informed that this year two field trials have completed. On rural road Geo textile has been used successfully. Bangladesh University of Technology and Engineering (BUTE) is doing the research. On the basis of report it will be decided where which kind of geo textile is suitable for different locations. Next year there will be more trial in Bangladesh India and UK.

## **2d) Improvement of processing machinery**

The Chairman remarked that there is need for improvement of jute processing machinery to improve the productivity and to reduce the conversion cost. After such successful modernization of jute industry during 1990 there has been no further development of jute processing machinery. It is, therefore high time to undertake the project of developing appropriate jute processing machinery which would address higher productivity, less energy to operate and having versatility to produce lighter products also. Such development effort should give adequate attention toward weaving and finishing machinery in particular.

The Board expressed the necessity to appropriately address the issue of improvement of jute processing machinery for increasing productivity and producing quality products.

## **2e) Training on Enzyme Application and sharing of information generated by R&D institutions**

The IJSG Secretariat informed the meeting that PJMA has earlier showed interest in organising a training programme for the jute mill personnel of PJMA on the production and application of Enzyme for improvement of fibre quality.

In the Eleventh meeting the PSCB Chairman remarked that as there was no one from Pakistan the Board cannot decide on the matter but a training programme could be arranged by IJIRA if PJMA shows interest. The Chairperson stated that, since there has been no reference from PJMA in the last three years, he proposed to drop the training.

Mr. Nurul Islam Patwari informed Apart from India (Gloster Industry) no one is using JB Oil. Now we are using Verding oil because JB oil is not available. Nevertheless Pakistan has been using the Enzyme and getting good results.

The Board noted the comments of the delegates and decided to drop the Training on Enzyme Application and sharing of information generated by R&D institutions.

## **2f) Cooperation with buyers'/consumers' organisations**

The Chairman, PSCB observed that buyer's-seller's meeting is being successfully organised along with this meeting and this will be followed in future as well.

Mr. Kemal Dogan said that, yesterday it was a very good buyer seller meeting. He assured that Turkey is very likely to join IJSG as a Member. Turkey (Gaziantep) is in good relation with IJSG.

The Secretary of PSCB remarked that the existing cooperation among the sellers and consumers may be strengthened for smooth trading of jute and jute products.

The Board noted the comments of the delegates and stressed on the necessity of increasing cooperation among the buyers' and consumers' organisations.

## **2g) Promotional activities including Disposal Protocol for Jute Products**

The Chairman remarked that we all should work for the promotion of jute products and work together to remove any obstacles in marketing of jute and jute products.

The IJSG Secretariat informed that, jute being a natural, renewable and biodegradable fibre has a potential market as eco friendly products. However, to leverage the market it is necessary to analyze and quantify the ecological impact viz. carbon footprint, water footprint and disposal cost between synthetic and jute products. IJSG has taken up the initiative to develop a project regarding eco-labelling and disposal protocol of jute and jute products. This could be used as a marketing tool to the buyers of developed countries where consumers are keen to know about the quantifiable measures of jute's eco-friendliness.

The Board appreciated the initiative taken by the IJSG Secretariat in taking up a project on this issue.

## **2h) Training of workers and other personnel of jute mills**

The Secretariat informed the meeting that in view of the dearth of trained man power in the jute mills it was felt necessary to organise a training programme for jute mills personnel to develop their skill so as to enable them to discharge their duties efficiently.

The Board appreciated the initiative taken by the IJSG in organizing Training Programmes for Jute Mill personnel of various countries in Dhaka. The Board also appreciated the organisation of a 10 day training programme for Jute Entrepreneurs/ Exporters/ Artisans/ Designers on Design and Product Development of Jute Diversified Product (JDP) especially the Jute Bags during October 24, 2011 to November 2, 2011 at the IJSG Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh conducted by the faculties of National Centre for Design and Product Development (NCDPD), India.

The Board noted the initiative taken by IJSG to organise a similar training program in Chennai, India during 16-23 December 2011 in collaboration with National Jute Board (NJB) & NCDPD, India and to organise a training program to develop skills of the rural women in producing jute based handicraft products in collaboration with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka.

The delegate of BJMC remarked that training of jute mill personnel is very important and suggested holding of more training programmes.

The Board noted the comments of the delegates and decided that similar training program may be organised in future. The necessary funds for organizing the training programs may partly be provided from the PSCB fund (Resource persons, Coordination and other incidental expenses, etc.) and partly by the interested Associations/Mills.

## **C. Other Business**

There was no discussion on any other issue.

## **D. Consideration of Recommendations of the Twelfth meeting of the PSCB to be submitted to the Council of the IJSG.**

The Board decided to place the Recommendations of the Twelfth meeting of the PSCB to the next Council Session of IJSG for its approval.

## **F. Date(s) of the next (Thirteenth) Meeting of the Private Sector Consultative Board**

The Chairman, PSCB invited suggestion for the venue of the next PSCB meeting.

The Board suggested to fix a suitable date and place for the next (Thirteenth) PSCB meeting in consultation with the Secretary General, Chairman-PSCB and Vice-Chairmen of PSCB. (**Agenda item F**).

## **G. Adoption of the Record of Recommendations/Decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the PSCB**

The Board authorised the Secretary - PSCB to finalise the record of Recommendations/Decisions of the Twelfth meeting of the PSCB to be circulated well before the next Session of the Council of IJSG. (**Agenda item G**).