# CURRICULUM VITAE
# OF
# AMBASSADOR FAROOQ SOBHAN

## *PERSONAL INFORMATION:*

Born September 17th 1940
Married, two children
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Dhaka University
Master of Arts from Oxford University

## *CURRENT POSITION:*

President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute
House # 20, Road # 5, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.
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## *DIPLOMATIC SERVICE:*

Served as a diplomat for 33 years from 1964 to 1997. Diplomatic career included postings in Cairo, Paris, Belgrade, Moscow, New York, Kuala Lumpur, Beijing and New Delhi.

## *CAREER HIGH LIGHTS:*

- Director General in charge of all multilateral affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka from February 1978 until July 1981.

- Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York from August 1981 until August 1984.

- High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Malaysia, with concurrent accreditation to Brunei from August 1984 until August 1987.

- Ambassador of Bangladesh to the People's Republic of China, with concurrent accreditation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Democratic Kampuchea from August 1987 until October 1991.

- Additional Foreign Secretary in charge of all multilateral affairs from October 1991 until May 1992. Periodically served as Acting Foreign Secretary during this period.

- Promoted to rank of Secretary in February 1992.

- High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India with concurrent accreditation to Mauritius from May 1992 until March 1995.

- Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh from March 1995 until September 1997.

- Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment, Prime Minister's Office, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh 1997 to 1999. Was responsible for the promotion and facilitation of all foreign and domestic investment in the country. During this period, also served as the special envoy of the Prime Minister with the rank and status of a state minister and visited more than 40 countries throughout the world as special envoy.

- Visiting Professor at the Elliot School of International Relations, George Washington University, Washington, 2003.

- Was appointed Special Envoy of the present Caretaker Government in May,2007, with the rank and status of a cabinet minister. In this capacity visited Washington and the United Nations in New York in May, 2007.

- Consultant to the World Bank, IFC and DFID on various projects.

***PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/SEMINARS while in govt.service***

- Member of the Bangladesh delegation to the Non-Aligned Summit Conferences in 1979, 1983, 1995 and 1998

- Member of the Bangladesh delegation to the Commonwealth Summits in 1979, 1983, 1995 and 1999.

- Member of the Bangladesh delegation to the Organization of Islamic Conference Summits in Taif in 1981 and Dakar in 1991.

- Member of the Bangladesh delegation to the 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 46th 50th 51st and 54th sessions of the UN General Assembly.

- Leader of the Bangladesh delegation to the 11th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1980.

- Leader of Bangladesh delegation to the ESOSOC Session in 1995. Leader of the Bangladesh delegation to the annual meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in 1996.

- Leader of Bangladesh delegation to the Meeting of Commonwealth Senior Officials in 1996 and also to the Steering Committee of Senior Officials of the Commonwealth in 1996 and 1997.

***HONORARY POSITIONS:***

- Chairman of the Group 77 at the United Nations in New York from October 1982 until October 1983.

- Chairman of the Third World Forum's Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries from 1983 until 1984.

- Chairman of the United Nations Commission of Transnational Corporations from 1991 until 1992.

- Member of the Steering Committee chaired by Dr. Mahathir Mohammed, Former Prime Minster of Malaysia, established in 1985 to facilitate the establishment of the South Commission.

- Co-chairman, Coalition for Action on South Asian Co-operation (CASAC) December 1994 to April 2001, continue as a member of the executive Committee.

- Advisor to the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

- Member of the High-level group on Human Duties and Responsibilities in the New Millennium co-sponsored by UNESCO and the City of Valencia.(1998-1999).

- Member of the Board of Governors of the South Asian Centre for Policy Studies. Kathmandu (2000-).

- Member of the International Research Committee of the Regional Centre for Security Studies, Colombo.(2001-2006).

- Member of the Advisory Committee for the Delhi Policy Group Project on Comprehensive Security in South Asia.(2000-2005).

- Co-chair of the CASAC-CPD project on Energy Co-operation in South Asia.(2001-2003).

- Member of the International Advisory Committee of the Asia Society in the United States.(2001-)

- Member of the International Advisory Board of The Round Table in London.

- Member of the International Advisory Committee for the project on Water Security in South Asia. (2000-2003)

- Member of the International Advisory Committee for the DFID/UNCTAD/CUTS project on Investment for development. (2001-2004)

- Member of the Advisory Committee of the South Asia Foundation which seeks to promote exchange of information among the people of South Asia.

- Co-Chairman of the Asia Foundation Task Force established in 2004 on "America's Role in Asia"

- Member of the Board of Directors of the SME Foundation established in 2007 by the Govt. of Bangladesh to over see the SME sector. Prior to that member and convenor of the first ever Government Task Force on SMEs (2003-2005). Member of the SME Advisory committee (2005-2007).

- Member of the International expert Group on Regulatory Reform established by World bank/IFC and DFID.

- Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Independent Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility, established in Dhaka in September,2007.

- Chairman of a high level Task Force on Counter Terrorism established in 2006, which includes several senior persons from the Government, including the Armed forces and the Police.

***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:***

- As Foreign Secretary was closely involved in the negotiations leading to the signing of the Ganges Water Treaty in December 1996.

- Initiated with Mr. I.K. Gujral (former Indian Prime Minister) and participated in twelve meetings of a high-level track II Indo-Bangladesh dialogue.

- Initiated the proposal for sub-regional co-operation among Bhutan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh and currently chairman of a study group on sub regional co-operation.

- Initiated, developed and implemented the proposal for the first-ever Business Summit Meeting of the Prime Ministers of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh held in Dhaka on January 15th 1998.

- Has been actively involved in the efforts to obtain duty free access for ready made garments from Bangladesh to the US. Helped to establish the Bangladesh caucus in the US Congress in 2001.

- Currently, President of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) which was established in October 2000. BEI is an independent research institute committed to the development of the private sector in Bangladesh and which is involved in a variety of research projects relating to the improvement of the investment climate in Bangladesh, the development of the SME sector, Business surveys, Competition Policy, Public-Private partnerships, trade facilitation between Bangladesh and the Indian North East, holding periodic dialogues between India and Bangladesh, work on Counter Terrorism in Bangladesh. BEI also serves as a regular platform for dialogues between the government and the private sector on various policy issues of concern to the private sector; BEI also does work on various aspects of globalization and its impact on the private sector.

***AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:***

Promotion and facilitation of foreign direct investment to Bangladesh and the Least Developed Countries (LDC);improving the investment climate in the country; promoting entrepreneurship and development of the SME sector in Bangladesh; strengthening corporate governance and promoting corporate social responsibility in Bangladesh and South Asia; public-private sector partnerships; combating corruption. All aspects of regional and sub-regional co-operation in South Asia. Indo-Bangladesh relations, with special reference to improvement of economic and commercial relations between Bangladesh and the seven North Eastern states of India; all aspects of security in South Asia, including comprehensive, energy and water security. Globalization and its impact on Bangladesh and other countries in the region. Issues relating to governance institution building, human resource development and sustainable development in South Asia. Counter Terrorism in Bangladesh and South Asia, chaired a task force which prepared a strategy document on a Counter Terrorism Strategy for Bangladesh.

***PUBLICATIONS:***

Has written extensively on international issues and problems, publications include a book entitled “Opportunities for South-South Co-operation” and co-author of “Shaping South Asia’s Future: Role of Regional Co-operation”. Edited the following BEI publications: “Strengthening Cooperation and Security in South Asia Post 9/11”, “ Bangladesh-India Dialogue: Vision of Young Leaders”, “Dynamics of Bangladesh-India Relations: Dialogue of Young Journalists Across the Border”, “A Comparative Analysis of Corporate Governance in South Asia : Charting a Roadmap for Bangladesh” “Reducing the Cost of Doing Business in Bangladesh”, “Study of e-Commerce in Bangladesh”, “Study of e-Government in Bangladesh”, Assessment Report on DANIDA’s Private Sector Development Programme in Bangladesh and “Countering Terrorism in Bangladesh”.

***RMG SECTOR:***

Has been closely associated with the RMG sector for the past fifteen years. While Ambassador to China and High Commissioner to India actively promoted the setting up of textile factories and other backward linkage industries in Bangladesh. Maintained close contact with the RMG and textile sectors during this period. As Foreign Secretary worked closely with BGMEA on a number of issues, including the MOU on the Elimination of Child Labour from the garment factories. Visited seven countries in

Europe and the US to seek improved market access for RMG exports and to mobilise financial support for the implementation of the MOU. Has been invited to serve on H&M's Advisory Board in Dhaka on Compliance issues.

***CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ATTENDED AS PRESIDENT, BEI:***

- May, 2001; Chamber Federation Global Summit on One Voice for Trade held at Washington, USA.

- June, 2001; 8th Symposium on Regional Integration in South Asia held at Washington, USA organised by National Advisory Council, South Asia Affairs.

- December 2001; Conference organised by South Asia Foundation held at Katmandu, Nepal.

- February, 2002; Development Partnership Forum, ODA and Private Finance Attracting Finance and Investment to Developing Countries organised by Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) held in Paris, France.

- June, 2002; The Fourth Asian Round Table on Corporate Governance at Mumbai, India jointly organised by Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Asian Development Bank and The World Bank.

- June, 2002; Conference on Post 9/11 Developments- Implications for South Asia held at Katmandu, Nepal organised by Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS).

- September, 2002; Conference on Peace and Security in South Asia organised by Institute of Strategic Studies held at Islamabad, Pakistan.

- October, 2002; Conference on Switching to High Growth: Issues in Policy and Regulation in the Indian Telecom Sector held at India Habitat World. Delhi, India organised by Center for Telecom Policy Studies, Ahmedabad, India.

- November, 2002; 4th Asian Corporate Governance Round Table held at Mumbai, India organised by The Government of Japan and The Global Corporate Governance Forum.

- November, 2002; Regional Seminar on Investment for Development organised by Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) held at Delhi, India.

- May, 2003; Seminar on World Investment Report 2003 on National FDI Policies and International Investment Agreements at Geneva, Switzerland jointly organised by UNCTAD and Development Policy Forum.

- December, 2003; Seminar on SME Clusters at Phnom Penh organised by OECD and UNCTAD.

- December, 2003; Summer Workshop held at Shanghai, China organised by Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS).

- January 2004: Seminar on Investment for Development organised by CUTS held in Geneva.

- March 2004: Workshop on Trade Finance organised by SEDF held in Kolkata, India.

- March 2004: Seminar on SAFTA; Agenda for Trade Liberalization held in Delhi, India.

- April 2004: Afro-Asian Civil Society Seminar organised by CUTS held in Delhi, India.

- April 2004: International Research Committee Meeting of RCSS, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- April 2004: SME Ministerial Conference organised by OCED held in Istanbul, Turkey.
- June 2004: Seminar on Asian Cooperation and Development organised by Boao Forum for Asia at Qingdao, China.
- October 2004: Wilton Park Conference on Regional Cooperation in South Asia .
- October 2005: Evian Group Annual Meeting held in Montreaux, Switzerland
- November 2005: CNI Partnership Meeting held at Kathmandu, Nepal.
- December 2004: Regional Dialogue on Global Change and the Future of SAARC Challenges and Prospects organised by FES India held in Delhi, India.
- January 2005: India-Bangladesh Dialogue held in Delhi.
- January 2005: Asia Foundation Meeting on the Tsk Force report on the Role of the US in Asia in San Francisco, USA.
- April 2005: INSME Board meeting and Annual Conference in held in Barcelona, Spain.
- August 2005: Workshop on Bangladesh-India Trade jointly organised by World Bank and BEI held in Delhi, India.
- November 2005: SAARC Business Meeting organised by FICCI in Delhi, India.
- November 2005: Corporate Governance Workshop in Kuala Lumpur.
- February 2006: Seminar on Public-Private Sector Dialogue held in Paris.
- March 2006: Conference on Asia 2015: Promoting Growth, Ending Poverty held in London.
- April 2006: Keynote Speaker at Private Sector Development (PSD) Forum 2006 held in Washington.
- June 2006: Leader of five member delegation of China-Bangladesh People's Friendship Association in response to invitation from CAIFU, Beijing, China.
- July 2006: ICGN Annual Conference held in Washington.
- July 2006: Annual CPSU Advisory Board Meeting held in London.
- September 2006: OECD Round Table Meeting on Corporate Governance held in Bangkok.
- September 2006: Annual World Bank Seminar in Singapore.
- November 2006: Attend South Asia Trade and Investment Forum 2006 held in London.
- November 2006: Keynote Speaker at International Conference on Creating Better Business Environment for Enterprise Development: Asia and Global Lessons Learned for More Effective Donor Practices held in Bangkok.

- February 2007: Seminar on “SAARC 2015: Expanding Horizons and Forging Cooperation in Resurgent Asia”.

- March 2007: Visited Copenhagen on the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

- April 2007: Conference on Counter Terrorism in South Asia organized by IISS in Muscat,Oman.

- May: 2007: Guest Speaker at IISS in London. Delivered speech on Combating Terrorism in South Asia.

- May:2007: International expert group meeting on Regulatory Reform organized by World bank and DFID in London.

- June 2007: Guest speaker at Annual Meeting of FIAS/IFC in Paris.

- July:2007 Annual Conference and Board Meeting of INSME, Rome.

- August 2007: leader of five member BEI delegation that visited China on the invitation of the Chinese Institute of Foreign Affairs.

- August 2007: Leader of eight member delegation of the Board of Directors of the SME Foundation that visited Malaysia on a study tour.

- October 2007: Presented paper at the Third International Conference on South Asia, Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore.

- November 2007: Guest speaker on Regional Cooperation in South Asia at the World Bank’s annual retreat of senior management of the World Bank’s South Asia Department.

- February 2008: Attended Board Meeting of the South Asia centre for Policy research in Kathmandu.

- February 2008: Presented paper on economic Cooperation in South Asia: the Role of the US at the meeting organized by the Asia Foundation on the Role of the US in South Asia.

- March 2008: Attended seminar on “India, South Asia and Pan Asian regional Cooperation” organized by ADB and ICRIER in Delhi.

- April 2008: One week official visit to the republic of Korea on the invitation of the Korean Foundation.

- May 2008: Guest Speaker on Bangladesh at a one day conference organized by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo.

- May 2008: Participated in a two day conference on Trade –Poverty nexus in South Asia organized by FES and IPS in Colombo

- June 2008: Key-note speaker at a two day conference on Bangladesh organized at Harvard.

- June 2008: Participated in a two day conference on Bangladesh at Wilton Park, UK

- September 2008: Participated in the First South Asia Economic Summit, co-hosted by World Bank, SACEPS, ADB, COMSEC and IPS in Colombo.

- September 2008: delivered the Valedictory address at the Fourth North East India Business Summit in Guwahati.

- November 2008: Participated in the meeting on "Implementing the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in South Asia"

- ***OTHER ACTIVITIES:***

  A keen bridge player. Served as President SAARC Bridge Federation (2000-2006) and Bangladesh Bridge Federation (1997-2002). Collector of paintings by contemporary artists of Bangladesh. Executive Committee Member of the Bangladesh Society for Promotion of Art.

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