The Government of Bangladesh has declared ‘Vision 2021’

The Government of Bangladesh has declared ‘Vision 2021’ with a target to make Bangladesh as a middle income country using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and development of favorable business environment for innovative companies. ICT has been considered as a thrust sector. Government has taken various initiatives to achieve the target. Among them conducive business environment for Hi-Tech Industries is mentionable. So, Information and Technology (IT) Village / Software Technology Park (STP) in divisional level will be one of the important and priority project which would be the milestone for the development of IT sector as well as industrialization in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Hi-tech Park Authority is the official body of Bangladesh government to boost up hi-tech industries in Bangladesh. To fasten up the economic development of the country, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) was established in 2010. The purpose of the act is to the establishment of the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority to make provision for the establishment and expansion of Hi-Tech industry for creation, management, operation and development of Hi-Tech Park within the country. It is an autonomous body comprising 76 personnel; Managing Director (MD) is the Chief Executive of the authority. There is an Executive Committee (EC), headed by the minister of ICT to look after the day to day policy matter of the authority. Representative from different ministries, local body and professional stack holders are the members of the EC. In spite of that, a Governing Council, headed by the honorable Prime Minister is also overviews, the overall policy matters of the authority. The office of the BHTPA is situated in the 3rd floor of Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka.

Background of Bangladesh

In the wake of developing a knowledge based economy, Bangladesh has realized that in the field of Science and Technology significant commitments have to be made to achieve high level prosperity in near future. Countries making transition from agro/industrial economy to information economy normally recognize the knowledge-based industries, particularly those related to information technology and biotechnology, as the top priority sector. It is a fact that Information Technology has been identified as the “thrust sector” for the economy of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has therefore conceived of establishing high-tech and modern industry that envisages supplementing tertiary industries and social well-being undertakings and would figure out high-level industrial parks that can keep pace with the world's economic development. Hi-Tech parks are being developed in different countries with a purpose to provide adequate infrastructure support services to create an environment well organized for development of need-based industries. Kailakoir Hi-Tech Park is the first state-level Hi-Tech park initiated by the government. The then Ministry of Science and Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MOICT) entrusted with the responsibility to Bureau of Research and Consultation (BRTC) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) for conducting a study for establishing a Hi-Tech park in Bangladesh. BRTC started the project formulation study with a multi-disciplinary team in the year 2001. The team visited some countries such as India, Singapore, Malaysia, gathered experience on such endeavors and prepared design, operation and management for a Hi-Tech park at Kaliakoir in Gazipur district. In the Master Plan of the Hi-Tech Park the land has been divided into five blocks and will be developed in different phases. Bloc-1 will have administrative offices and utilities. It will be implemented in the first phase.
At first a Project Concept Paper (PCP) with an estimated cost of Tk.25100.00 lakh was sent to the Planning Commission. On 03 Feb 2003 the Pre-ECNEC meeting decided that MOSICT will make efforts to derive funds from different sources through Economic Relation Division (ERD) for its implementation and the project would be included in the 2002-2003 Annual Development Programme (ADP) as Private Sector Funded Project. The response for achieving funds has not been satisfactory.

MST Technology Centre, a subsidiary organization of Malaysia’s Hi-Tech park authority, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) has expressed their interest to establish a Hi-Tech park in the proposed land in Bangladesh resembling to Malaysia’s Multimedia Super Corridor. With this end in view they have conducted a study and submitted their final report in the MOSICT on 27 Aug 2005.

On 03 April 2003 National Taskforce Committee of MOSICT decided to implement the Hi-Tech park project. Accordingly step was taken to establish Hi-Tech Park on 231.385 areas of land. A memorandum of understanding was signed between Ministry of land and MOSICT and the land was handed over to MOSICT on 24 April 2004 by the Ministry of Land.

In the year 2004-2005 the Hi-Tech park project was included in the ADP as a project without budget. A project was then proposed to create basic infrastructure facilities from own fund of the Government of Bangladesh to motivate the potential foreign investors for investment. The project has been known as the Basic Infrastructure Development Project for Hi-Tech Park at Kaliakoir (1st phase) at a cost of Tk.26 core.

Later on, Price Water House Cooper India engaged by World Bank (WB) under Bangladesh Private Sector Development Support Project (PSDSP) to conduct a feasibility study. The consultant firm has submitted pre-final report. The Basic Infrastructure for Hi-Tech Park in Kaliakoir, Gazipur Project is progressing smoothly.

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**Mission & Objectives**

Bangladesh hi-tech park has been established with a view to achieve a set of specific mission and vision. The underlying mission and vision are-

- To establish a world class business environment for targeted high growth industrial sector and new business
- To develop indigenous technological capability for the development of the local industries
- To enter into foreign markets by exporting state of the art technology products
- Infrastructure to facilitate hassle-free industrial operation with necessary support