

## **Press Release**

Global Diaspora Day-2016

WARBE central office in Dhaka on 23 June, 2016

WARBE Development Foundation observed the "Global Diaspora Day-2016" with a discussion meeting at its central office in Dhaka on 23 June, 2016, participated by the members of Bangladesh National Migrants Rights NGO Network, Bangladesh Ovibashi Adhikar Forum (BOAF), and representatives from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and members of WARBE. The key objective of the discussion was to shed light on diasporas from manifold aspects with the various network members, so that they can develop a strong understanding on the issue of diasporas and later can share their learning with the social structures at the root level.

A Diaspora is a group of people who live outside the homeland, and where they have lived for a long time. They are a movement, a migration or a "scattering of people" known as "overseas communities". Often, a Diaspora is formed on a solidarity kinship bond of culture and social cohesion. The strategic approach to the Diaspora development is to engage, enable and empower. Diaspora communities contribute to development through human and social capital (for example, health and education sectors); economic capital (remittances); and cultural capital (rich cultural experiences and kinships, a "home away from home"). SDC believes there are complexities to diasporas as they are relatively new in terms of research and NGO work. They believe in international co-operation here. Syed Saiful Haque, Chairman, WARBE DF says that WARBE has planned to place Diasporas into their framework through the national level advocacy, private sector collaboration, linking Diaspora communities and the Bangladesh Diaspora Forum.

In the discussions the discussants tell that, Diasporas, and as a result, Global Diaspora Day are issues and advocacy and awareness matters are not taken up much in terms of raising awareness for most Bangladeshi NGOs and other organizations regarding the issues. The discussants also echoed that Diasporas must be paid more attention to as they contribute human & social capital; economic capital; and cultural capital. SDC congratulated WARBE on the fact that WARBE keeps up with forces and factors at a regional, national and international level. WARBE is constantly well-informed and aware and present. WARBE is passionate, opinionated, and informative.

In this event SDC, WARBE DF, and other network members express their pleasure with their relationship built on passion, knowledge, friendship, and years of history and experience together. Shabari Nath Nair, Regional Program Head, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Syed Saiful Haque, Chairman, WARBE DF, Md. Faruque Ahmed, Secretary General, WARBE DF, Ms. Jasiya Khaton, Director, WARBE DF, MD. Nazmul Ahsan, President, Bangladesh Ovibashi Adhikar Forum (BOAF), and other members of Bangladesh Ovibashi Adhikar Forum (BOAF), and WARBE Development Foundation were present in this discussion.

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