



MEDIA RELEASE

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR / CHIEF REPORTER

06 September 2009

Orientation of Parliamentarians ends with Commitment from UNDP to Support Bangladesh Parliament for the next Five Years

Dhaka – With the commitment from UNDP to support Bangladesh Parliament for the next five years a weeklong orientation programme for women MPs and first-time elected MPs ended today.

“I wish to express our commitment to supporting Parliament and we look forward to continuing our strong partnership through a new multi-year project from 2009 to 2014”, said UNDP Bangladesh Country Director, Mr. Stefan Priesner, during the closing ceremony of the ‘*Bangladesh Parliament Orientation Programme*’, jointly organized by Bangladesh Parliament and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The orientation programme for women MPs and first-time elected MPs were held in the Oath Room of the Bangladesh Parliament from 30 August 2009 and were designed to better orient the new members to the Rules of Procedure and Legislative drafting.

“By providing technical and institutional support to Parliament, UNDP hopes to foster democratic values and practices, encourage diverse and gender-sensitive political representation within multi-partisan committee structures, and create opportunities for public input into the legislative and oversight functions of the Parliament”, Mr. Priesner added.

The session was facilitated by International Parliament Expert Mr. Patrick Cadle and National Parliament Expert Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed, while MP Suranjit Sengupta and Ex-Minister and Former MP Mr. Abdul Mannan served as Resource Persons. The sessions were chaired by the Honorable Deputy Speaker, Mr. Shawkat Ali, MP.

A total of 196 MPs were invited to attend the sessions, each session accommodating approximately 45 MPs. The program has been highly successful with requests from MPs to conduct similar programs on a more regular basis.

Based on the success of the former UNDP project titled ‘Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy (SPD)’, UNDP is now preparing to launch another five-year project for the present Jatiya Sangsad aiming at developing the capacity of the MPs as well as increasing awareness of their roles and responsibilities

ENDS

For further information please contact: Mr. A M Sakil Faizullah, Communications Manager, UNDP via email: sakil.faizullah@undp.org, ph: +88 02 811 8600, ext. 2417, mob: +88 01713 049900 or Mr. Ataul Osmani, Communications Associate, UNDP via email: ataul.osmani@undp.org, ph: Ph: +880 2 811 8600 ext. 2423, mob: +88 01818 718290