

Speech of the Chairman in the Inaugural Ceremony of the Committee on Projects (COP) of the IJSG on its 9th Session, Dhaka, 27-28 August, 2008.

**Dear Secretary General of IJSG,
Distinguished Delegates of the Members of the IJSG,
Representatives of the Associate Members,
IJSG Personnel,
Distinguished observers,
Representative of Press and Electronic Media,
Ladies & Gentlemen,**

**Assalamu Alaikum
and
a very good morning to you all.**

It gives me immense pleasure to be present here at the Inaugural ceremony of the Ninth meeting of the committee on Projects (COP). As the Chairman of the COP, I would like to express my Sincere thanks to all of you for participating in the Ninth meeting of the Committee on Projects (COP). I feel myself happy and proud to be present amongst the personalities really committed to the development of the Jute and allied fibres. I extend my sincere appreciation to the participants coming from abroad taking a lot of troubles in attending the meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen

You know that the session of the COP is the forum for debating, discussing and considering the projects. Through the opening of the session we are going to work for two days ahead. The only aim of the Session is to help IJSG to move forward by considering New Project Proposal about Jute and allied fibres for uplift of global Jute sector.

The 9th COP meeting is going to discuss and review a number of projects such as recently completed Projects, On-going projects, Pipeline projects and approved unfunded projects. Further more, the consideration of new projects proposal, review of the special account and election of Chairman and Vice Chairman will also be on the agenda. I hope the session will be successful in making appropriate decisions on the issues considered.

IJSG, a successor organization of the International Jute Organization (IJO) is mandated to rejuvenate the Jute economy by developing international co-operation with Jute producing and consuming countries in the world. As a catalytic role player in initiation, sponsoring, supervision and monitoring the projects and related activities through the executing and implementing agencies in the member countries IJSG is expected to address the issues of poverty alleviation, employment generation and development of human resource.

To achieve the mandate of the Group, the IJSG Secretariat has taken initiative to undertake various new important projects and activities. Some important projects like "Small Scale Entrepreneurship Development in Diversified Jute Product" is going on satisfactorily. Besides, some more projects and activities are under implementation and some are in the pipeline, Since last COP meeting some projects have been completed and as per report their results have been disseminated through workshops and seminars in the member countries including stakeholders. I think the prospects of those seminars are encouraging. Similarly we may expect that the ongoing projects will be completed in time by mutual co-operation of the member countries. Besides the other projects which will come under discussion in this meeting will give us a new avenue for development of jute and allied fibres. It is desired that as an apex international body for development of jute and allied fibres IJSG would explore all avenues for the development of this sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The development of the jute sector is not possible by the involved National Government alone. Active participation and initiative of the private sector can also help immensely to achieve the cherished goal. I hoped that the IJSG's able leadership would be able to rejuvenate the jute economy through multifarious efforts. It is expected the members of the COP will put forward their ideas/views/comments/suggestions on the proposed projects and make recommendations for consideration of the Council.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the Secretary General, IJSG Officials and staffs for their efforts to make the objectives of the Group a success. Once again I extend my thanks and gratitude to everyone.

Now, I would like to request the Secretary General of the IJSG to describe about the ascertainment of quorum .