

## PREFACE

In today's world, characterized by increasing economic integration and globalization, transparency and access to trade rules and procedures is becoming more important, particularly for the small and medium-sized enterprises in the least developed countries.

It is important that information on Asian and Pacific least developed countries, concerning their market potential, trade regimes, import procedures and other trade-related issues, be available. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has been addressing this need on a priority basis and disseminating information through its trade information service network, TISNET, and in publications and handbooks for the past two decades.

The ESCAP series of traders' manuals for Asian and Pacific countries has been acknowledged as a very useful source of information. In this context, ESCAP has concentrated its efforts on publishing and updating the traders' manuals for the least developed countries of the ESCAP region.

In order to reach a greater audience through the Internet, this publication will be available **only** in electronic version. This will allow more freedom for regular updates in due course.

This first online edition provides updated information on the business and investment climate in Bangladesh.

The ESCAP secretariat has received information and support from various agencies in Bangladesh for which it is very grateful. The secretariat wishes to acknowledge, with appreciation, the cooperation received from the Ministry of Commerce, the Office of the Controller of Imports and Exports, the Export Promotion Bureau, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Board of Investment.

We hope that this edition will be useful to both exporters and importers of Bangladesh merchandise, as well as to investors.