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Chief Editor

Montaz Uddin Ahmed

Professor

Department of Economics

University of Dhaka

Associate Editor

Monzur Hossain

Senior Research Fellow

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

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Royal Tower, 4 Panthapath, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

Phone: 8142983, 9142907, Fax: 8142467

E-mail: info@smef.org.bd

Website: www.smef.org.bd



Small & Medium Enterprise Foundation

Royal Tower, 4 Panthapath, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

Phone +8802 8142983, 9142907 Fax: +88028142467

E-mail: info@smef.org.bd, Website: www.smef.org.bd

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Editorial Board

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University of Dhaka.

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Editor's Note

This is the second issue of the International Journal of SME Development published annually by the SME Foundation. It is a peer-reviewed international Journal dedicated to publish research based articles dealing with the multi-dimensional issues analyzing the dynamics of SME growth and development. The diverse SME related issues covered by the articles published in the present volume include: theoretical framework for analyzing SME growth and sustainability, Use of ICT and application of productivity raising methods for improving operational efficiency of the SMEs, Promotion of Entrepreneurship among rural women, SME clustering, and comparison of SME promotion policies and strategies in selected South Asian nations.

The economic significance of SMEs is widely recognized globally and also documented empirically. The pivotal role played by them in new enterprise creation and entrepreneurship development, employment generation, poverty alleviation, promotion of socially inclusive national economic growth etc. are emphatically recognized by the emerging economies such as Bangladesh. SME-friendly policy making and strategy building got a head start in Bangladesh since 2005 when SME sector was recognized as the “Thrust” sector for achieving balanced and inclusive industrial development. The strategic role of SMEs as instruments for achieving pro-poor growth amid challenges of globalization continued since then and became further reinforced thereafter by the Industrial Policies of 2010 and 2016. It is indeed gratifying to note that a comprehensive new SME Policy 2016 is in the offing under a constant vigilance and guidance of the Ministry of Industries, Government of Bangladesh to spearhead the move towards achieving the MIC status by 2021 through ensuring inclusive and sustained development of the SME sector.

The SME Foundation designated as the National Apex body for SME promotion is mandated by the Government to implement SME policies and programmes by delivering a host of essential support services required to facilitate accelerated SME growth and expansion. The Foundation's initiative to publish this academic Journal should hopefully invigorate Government's efforts towards developing a dynamic SME sector through encouraging research, studies and publications on the SME focused issues. This is expected to facilitate exchange of ideas, views

and narratives on SME promotion policies and strategies. More importantly, the Journal is also expected to ensure free flow of vitally important information on the “International best practices” concerning SME development in different countries and regions.

Our emphasis is on publishing original research works on different issues and factors influencing and determining SME growth and expansion. We seek in particular analytical papers of high quality and proven standards suitable for publication in a renowned journal. The journal encourages publication of articles of empirical nature as well as theoretical flavour and motivation. Publication of notes and communications and book reviews is also encouraged. Our learned editorial board assures objective review of submitted articles as fast as possible and their prompt publication in each forthcoming issue provided they pass the rigorous evaluation process.

Momtaz Uddin Ahmed

Chief Editor

International Journal of SME Development
and

Professor

Department of Economics
University of Dhaka.

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