



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
BANGLADESH

## Message of Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

on

### Inaugural Conference on Right to Information : Law, Institution and Citizens

**Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Hon'ble Foreign Minister,  
Distinguished members of diplomatic missions,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Assalamu Alaikum and Good Morning.**

I congratulate the RTI Forum for organising this important conference. I welcome the foreign guests who have come to share their valuable experiences of implementing the Right to Information Law in their respective countries.

We believe that transparency and accountability are essential to establish a corruption-free public administration and ensure the rights of general masses. And free flow of information and independent mass media can play a vital role in this regard.

In our election manifesto, we also pledged to ensure free flow of information. That is why, we enacted the Right to Information Law on March the 29<sup>th</sup> this year in the first session of the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament. As we have enacted the law, we are now committed to implementing it. Our Constitution guarantees every citizen the freedom of thought, conscience and speech irrespective of religion, race, caste and sex.

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Our greatest enemy is poverty and we must work together to eliminate poverty from our country. I know that right information at the right time helps the poor to improve their wellbeing. I want to see this law to work for the poor and disadvantaged people. The law has considered the needs of certain special groups like the people with disability, indigenous groups, poor and marginalised people.

The law makes it mandatory for all public bodies to give information and includes NGOs as they deal with public funds. I hope that the NGOs will also come forward and give out information and maintain complete transparency and accountability in all their dealings.

No law is perfect at the initial stage but it can gradually be made perfect, if we reflect our lessons learnt on the use of such law. Let us not be too critical about the law at this stage. I urge you to uphold the spirit of the law and start implementing it with positive attitude.

I hope that this law will help improve the image of Bangladesh in the world community as a country committed to setting up a transparent and accountable governance system.

I once again thank the participants for taking part in this conference and convey my greetings to everyone present.

I wish every success of the conference. Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

**Sheikh Hasina**