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MESSAGE

The 5th International Conference on Child Rights and Sight is a momentous event. I commend the Distressed Children and Infants International (DCI) for making it possible. I also commend DCI for promoting child rights and preventing blindness among the world's vulnerable children. They are our future and their health is vital for a healthy nation and a healthy world. The DCI's vision and work on child health resonates Bangladesh Government's vision and activities on children's well being.

I congratulate the DCI and its leadership, particularly its Executive Director for the laudable work on children, especially under the Sun Child Sponsorship Program that provides long term support to underprivileged children and their families in remote Bangladeshi villages. This program has enabled hundreds of children to complete primary education with many pursuing secondary and higher education. The DCI program on Health for the Underprivileged is also reaching free health care including maternal health and natal care to the doorstep of the needy in deprived areas.

It is exciting to learn that DCI's programs are attracting Bangladeshi-Americans, especially young ones to visit and meet the sponsored children and to directly contribute to humanitarian activities in Bangladesh. Indeed, DCI's vision and activities assures it becoming a center of excellence in child development. I am sure that the 5th Conference on Child Rights and Sights would reveal many of DCI's achievements as well as help foster awareness, consensus and mutual understanding on child rights issues.

It is my expectation that this ensuing and such future conferences would keep on contributing towards attaining the cherished goal of a world where children be a healthy, happy, productive force. Such a force would surely lead to a prosperous nation and a world better prepared to face the challenges of the future. I would be thrilled to see the DCI continuing its praiseworthy work with greater zeal and fervor and with that wish, I expect this important conference all success in promoting their noble cause.

(Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin)