

*Microfinance :  
dangers and  
opportunities in  
an environment of  
extreme poverty*



**For the closing of the exhibition *Old Sails of Bangladesh***

Friendship Luxembourg asbl,  
in cooperation with the Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster  
and ADA - Appui au Développement Autonome asbl

has pleasure in inviting you to a conference

given by **Mrs Runa Khan**,  
*Executive director of Friendship Bangladesh*

*Microfinance :  
dangers and  
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an environment of  
extreme poverty*

on Friday, **17<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 12.15 pm**

at the Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster  
28, rue Münster ▪ L-2160 Luxembourg

The conference will be followed at 1.15 pm by a reception in the premises of the Abbaye.  
The conference will be given in English; a simultaneous French translation will be available.  
A guided visit of the exhibition *Old Sails of Bangladesh* will be organised at 2 pm.

Please confirm your attendance: Tel.: +352/ 26 20 52 1 or E-mail: [contact@ccrn.lu](mailto:contact@ccrn.lu)

The reception is organised with the support of *Bernard Massard S.A.* and members of the Bangladeshi community in Luxembourg.  
Service by *Événementiel*.

The exhibition *Old sails of Bangladesh* runs until September 19<sup>th</sup> .  
Everyday from 11.00 am to 18.00 pm. Free entrance.

Friendship Bangladesh works mainly in the North of Bangladesh, on the alluvial islands (Chars) located in the Brahmaputra, particularly exposed to the floods. Initially focused on health, the activities of Friendship have progressively expanded to education, vocational training, disaster management, income generation and livelihood.

Taking into account the extreme hazards to which the beneficiaries of its income generation and livelihood programmes are exposed, Friendship has developed microfinance schemes based on savings and risk sharing rather than on credit as such. In a very unstable environment, the latter indeed exposes the borrowers to risks which are out of their control. Runa Khan will share the innovative and constantly evolving experience of its organisation in this respect.

Co-founder with her husband Yves Marre in 1998, of Friendship Bangladesh, of which she is presently the executive director, Runa Khan has received numerous awards for her action in favour of a holistic development. *Ashoka-fellow* from 1994 for the development of an innovative teaching method for children with learning deficiencies, she has received, in particular, the *Rolex Award for Entrepreneurship* for her action in favour of the preservation of ancient boats of Bangladesh (2006), the *Media Award Bangladesh* (2007) and the *Islamic Development Bank Award* for the promotion of women in development (2008).



The exhibition *Old sails of Bangladesh* has been rendered possible by the support of *KPMG, AB Bank Bangladesh, Matanel Foundation, Compagnie de Banque Privée (CBP), Soludec SA, Foyer* and some other private donors.

## About Friendship Luxembourg:

Friendship Luxembourg ([www.friendship-lu.org](http://www.friendship-lu.org)) is a non-profit organisation (NGO) recognised by the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Development Cooperation. The programmes of Friendship in Bangladesh in the sectors of health, education, vocational training, income generation, disaster prevention and relief are presented in one of the three exhibition rooms at CCRN. They are illustrated in particular by photos taken by the French photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand during his recent photo-shoot, in Bangladesh, of the first episode of his new television show, named *The heroes of nature*, most of which documents the activities of Friendship in Bangladesh.

Friendship Luxembourg also implements projects in Pakistan, mainly in the health sector and in relief.

## About ADA:

Expert in microfinance, ADA - Appui au développement autonome [www.microfinance.lu](http://www.microfinance.lu) has for over 15 years been initiating innovative concepts that have been successfully tried out and developed through microfinance institutions in the South. ADA's action aims at increasing access to inclusive financial services (such as bank accounts, loans, saving schemes or money transfers) for millions of people worldwide, for whom traditional bank services are inaccessible. ADA is a preferred partner for knowledge and competences sharing, as well as information and specialized documentary source research and microfinance awareness campaigns.

ADA is a non-profit organization (NGO) recognized by the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Development Cooperation. ADA was granted the High Patronage of H.R.H. the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg. In Luxembourg, ADA is a partner of Etika and Luxflag and advisor of the *Luxembourg Microfinance and Development Fund* (LMDF).

*In order to join the Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster, it is recommended to use the public parkings in town or the parking of Rives de Clausen.*

*From the Saint Esprit Plateau, a free elevator goes down to the Grund at walking distance ( 200 meters ) of Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster.*



Club des partenaires privilégiés

