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## Muhith says Dhaka to get 800m loan from ADB in 2017

*Staff Correspondent*

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Finance minister AMA Muhith on Wednesday said Bangladesh would receive a loan amounting more than \$ 800 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) this myear from the bank's six billion dollar aid in pipeline.

He expressed his expectation while talking to the reporters' after a meeting with visiting ADB Vice-President Wencai Zhang at the Secretariat. ADB Country Director Kajuhiko Higuchi was also present at the meeting.

Bangladesh also received \$ 813 million loan from the ADB last year, Muhith said adding "There are six billion dollar of ADB assistance in the pipeline for Bangladesh."

Meanwhile, Wencai Zhang and ADB delegation team visited the project office of the Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP) at Eskaton Garden on Wednesday.

Mahbub Ahmed, Senior Secretary, Finance Division, and other high officials of the project accompanied them during the visit, purpose of which was to gain first-hand experience of the progress of the project and also to give guidelines for future improvement of the implementation of the same.

Upon arrival, the Vice President and his team were warmly greeted by the members of the SEIP officials. The programme began after Jalal Ahmed, National Project Director of SEIP project welcomed the visitors and explained the background of the project.

Couples of beneficiary trainees of SEIP partner training institutes were invited to share their experiences in the forum. One of the trainees was a female who undertook short training in 'Customer Support Service' course and immediately after her certification she got a job in an e-Commerce company.

Other beneficiary was a young man who received three-month long short training in 'Mobile Phone Servicing' course and subsequently became an entrepreneur by establishing a mobile phone



service center in the village market with the help of credit facilities provided by the partner training organisation. The delegation listened to their success stories minutely and appreciated their efforts. In his speech the ADB Vice president said that he was very happy to see the progress of SEIP project so far. He also mentioned that due to its rapid impact in positively changing the human resource development scenario in Bangladesh, ADB has identified SEIP as one of their flagship projects.

He then gave some ideas to improve the implementation of the project. He suggested that SEIP could design a plan to create linkage between the emerging economic zones (where there will be demand for skilled labor) and the training activities of SEIP project.

In his concluding speech the Senior Secretary of Finance Division gave a contextual overview on why and how the government undertook this project.

ADB Vice-President Wencai Zhang arrived in Dhaka on February 6 on a 3-day visit. He has arranged a press briefing today in ADB Dhaka office.

