Award #1:

1. Biometric Identity and Worker Information Management System

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA)

REASONS FOR NOMINATION (NOTE: It is important that you make a <u>detailed description</u> of the nominee and why you think the nomination is justified. The absence of a detailed summary of qualifications as they *relate* to the above-mentioned award description will make it difficult for the awards committee to make an appropriate assessment of the candidate):

Many stories remain unknown as the industry moves from zero to the top, with the garment the industry is one of the few industries that have played a vital role in rebuilding Bangladesh's post-independence economy.

The industry, which was started by a handful of courageous entrepreneurs in the late 1980s, is one of the driving forces of Bangladesh's economy today that has changed the lives and livelihoods of millions of people, giving backward women a chance at social status and self-reliance. Not only the contribution of export earnings and GDP, but also the contribution of this industry behind the silent revolution in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh in the last four decades is undeniable.

The garment industry is the main export-oriented industry in Bangladesh, which accounts for 63% of the total export earnings. The sector is playing an important role in the national economy with its 11% contribution to GDP, employment of 4 million workers, employment of 10 million people in backward and forward industries, and its invaluable role in the development of services and other industries. In 2010, the garment sector recognized Bangladesh as the **second-largest garment exporter on the world map.**

The industry started in 1983-1984 with a garment export of $31.57 million. Through various adversities, exports increased to $12.35 billion in FY 2008-2009. However, after the fires and building collapses in 2012 and 2013, the entrepreneurs started giving priority to the safety and sustainable development of the industry. **Due to the dissatisfaction and destruction of labor in this sector, the entrepreneurs became very worried. In order to destabilize this the sector of the country, various quarters from outside the sector deliberately started vandalism, blockade, arson, unethical migration, etc. by using workers.** To avoid all these untoward incidents, BGMEA held one-on-one meetings with leading experts in the country and decided to launch the "Biometric Worker Database" project with combined fingerprint (AFIS) and faceID in 2013 on a trial basis through various experiments, which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Within a year of the project's launch, total exports increased to $21.52 billion in FY 2012-2013, **reaching 34.13 billion in FY 2018-19**. In this continuum of success, when all the factories started coming under this project, various untoward incidents stopped at a significant rate. A stable working environment is restored in this sector which is a milestone in the national development of Bangladesh. This was followed by a silent revolution in green industrialization. As a result, Bangladesh has ranked the world's 2nd in ethical manufacturing in 2021.

Currently, the biometric database of garment workers is being used for more than **4 million workers** in about **3,000 garment factories** across the country. As a result, the country's garment industry has been steadily prospering in recent years, ensuring uninterrupted exports, avoiding unintended labor-related accidents.

This is an example how an industry got the benefit of using emerging technology in their operations and got tremendous benefits to remain in position for the highest contribution on country's employment and economic growth. This is an iconic project of the Bangladesh garment industry and deserves to be nominated for **2021 WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards in** Sustainable Growth/Circular Economy Award category.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: Please send any supporting information to the address above, including information from candidate (i.e. excerpt from program description, web site print-out, press release, etc.)

01 Attached files has been enclosed herewith to consider the award proposals:
File Name: BGMEA.pdf

NOMINEE CONTACT INFORMATION (for award follow up and coordination)
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