



BANGLADESH'S GRADUATION FROM THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES GROUP PITFALLS AND PROMISES

Edited by

Debapriya Bhattacharya
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

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On 16 March 2018, the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a subsidiary advisory body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), resolved to include Bangladesh in the list of countries poised to graduate out of the group of the least developed countries (LDCs). Thus, it is expected that the country will come out of the LDC group by 2024, provided that the upcoming triennial reviews of the CDP (in 2021 and 2024) endorse its continuous performance as per the group's graduation criteria.

Conceptual discourse around LDC graduation, and the particular narrative around Bangladesh's journey in that direction, will be of interest not only to scholars of Bangladesh, but also to researchers and policymakers with an interest in LDC graduation for other countries facing similar challenges. This book aims to articulate appropriate strategies and initiatives to help Bangladesh maintain its developmental momentum and to prepare for a sustainable graduation in 2024. It is a modest expectation that the present volume, from both analytical and empirical perspectives, will add to the existing stock of knowledge regarding the development challenges currently faced by the LDCs as well as other developing countries.

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This volume provides a definitive interpretation of Bangladesh's transition out of the least developed country (LDC) ghetto and how we may better manage this transition to ensure the upward trajectory in our economic fortunes.... The contributors to this volume identify a range of critical interventions needed to prepare Bangladesh for formal graduation which progressively ends our special privileges, and then to sustain our upward trajectory. ”

Rehman Sobhan

Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
Former Member, UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Interpretation and consolidation of various economic theories for improved understanding of the rationale for LDC graduation process;
- Teasing out lessons from cross-country comparisons of performance of the previously graduated countries as well as those in the pipeline;
- Analysis of interface between structural transformation of an economy and smooth transition after LDC graduation;
- Identification of post-graduation challenges and opportunities and strategies to address them;
- Illustration of the policy synergies (and trade-offs) between implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the LDC graduation with a momentum;
- Review of emerging, not so enabling, regional and global environment affecting the LDC graduation prospect.

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