

THOUGHTS AND INITIATIVES

2. COMPUTER FOR DHOLAI KHAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A DATABASE

This year BDI separately raised about \$1500 to buy a Personal Computer (PC) for the Dholai Khal Machine and Machine Parts Manufacturing and Repairing Association of Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Association is in the process of acquiring a dust-free cool room to house the PC. Professor Nurul Islam, Director of the Institute for Appropriate Technology (IAT) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka and Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Director of the Computer Center of BUET, have taken the responsibility to check the adequacy of the room that the Association comes up with. As soon as the Association fulfills this requirement, BDI will purchase the PC, which will be used to prepare documents and letters for the Association and its members. The PC may also be used to create a database concerning manufacturing of machine and machine parts.

In another development, Professor Nurul Islam, at the request of BDI, has agreed to undertake a project to create a database for the Dholai Khal Association. Under this scheme, Professor Islam will design a 'Form' in order to gather information on the four hundred (or so) active member companies of the Association as follows:

- (1) Name, address, phone and fax numbers (if any) of the company;
- (2) Size of the company and the list of the machineries and equipment used in manufacturing;
- (3) List of the machines and machine parts manufactured by the company;

- (4) List of the raw materials used by the company for producing these products along with their procurement source and cost;
- (5) List of the parties that buy manufactured products from the company along with the quantity of orders;
- (6) List of the problems the company is experiencing in manufacturing machine and machine parts.

The officers of Dholai Khal Association have agreed to get these forms filled by their member companies and send them to IAT. Professor Islam will appoint an individual who will enter the data on a PC. The data will be sorted and categorized later which will form the basis for creating an exhaustive catalog of products manufactured by the entrepreneurs of Dholai Khal Area. This catalog may, in future, be used to prepare individual sales brochures. The data is expected to reveal the immediate problem which most of the manufacturers are currently experiencing in their day to day operations. For example, it is already known that the lack of a heat treatment facility is preventing the manufacturers from further improving the quality of their products, a fact which the data is supposed to bring out. Furthermore, the data can be used for statistical and research purposes in making future policy decisions.

The systematic presentation of these data may serve the following purposes: (1) The information of the products and capabilities of these entrepreneurs will be brought to public, which may increase the customer base. (2) The Government and the private sectors will consider utilization of the products and capabilities of Dholai Khal manufacturers for their projects. (3) The Government will be more aware of the problems faced by these entrepreneurs and may take initiatives to provide institutionalized solutions.

It will take the appointed individual about a year to prepare the database on the PC. A total sum of mere \$600 at the rate of \$50 a month is required to complete the project. If you would like to contribute money for the project, please contact (425) 373-4013.