

The Revised GPT of Canada: A Window of Opportunity for LDCs

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Abstract:

Canada progressively reduced barriers to the exports with the Market Access Initiative for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), effective January 1, 2003. Many LDCs including Bangladesh reaped considerable benefits from this initiative, capturing export gains, particularly in textiles and apparel. The exports value of Bangladesh to Canada increased by 376 percent in 2012 compared to 2003 over last 10 years. The value of bilateral merchandise export was only 250 million in 2003 which has increased to 1.19 billion in 2012. Recently, Canadian government has declared to withdraw General Preferential Tariff (GPT) from 43 developing countries including China, India, South Korea, Malaysia, Hongkong, Indonesia, South Africa etc. which will be effective from January 1, 2015. This revised GPT could help Bangladesh tremendously to increase its export particularly in textiles and apparel to Canada.

Key Words: GPT, Canada, LDCs