



Mr Zakir Khan

Place of Residence: **London**
Sector: **Communitiy Relations**

Mr Zakir Khan was born in Bangladesh and came to the UK when he was four years old. He then moved to Tower Hamlets at the age of 7. Mr Khan started off as a Youth Worker, he worked for some time with Southwark council before moving to Camden council.

His first full time employment came in the form of working for Tower Hamlets Victim support, a voluntary organisation. There his duties included providing support and guidance to victims of racial harassment. He then began working for Tower Hamlets Council in the capacity of Team Leader for Tower Hamlets careers and guidance service. His next career move came when he became centre co-ordinator for Kingsley Hall community centre based in Bow. Zakir Khan finally moved to a new job as Community Affairs Manager for Canary Wharf Group, since the year 2000, and he has remained in this position. In addition to GCSE's, Zakir Khan also posses a Post Graduate Diploma in Careers Guidance.

As Community Affairs manager its Mr Khan's responsibility to ensure

that Canary Wharf Group maintains a healthy relationship with the community, and to make the community aware of their activities and initiatives. Zakir Khan is currently the only Bangladeshi employee of Canary Wharf Group at management level.

Another aspect of his employment is to provide financial support to community and sports organisations. He has organised numerous sporting events and projects on behalf of Canary Wharf Group, such as the Asians in football project, which promotes Bangladeshi footballers both from Tower Hamlets and also from Bangladesh. Zakir Khan has also sponsored three football clubs from Bangladesh to tour the UK, including Mohammedan, Dhaka Abahani and Chittagang Abahani.

Zakir's efforts in developing and implementing prosperity through sport in Bangladesh recently involved the establishment of a football development programme there. The purpose of the project is to seek talented young football players from Bangladesh and provide them with quality coaching, to

nurture and guide them into playing professional football. The project was launched in 2006 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka and was attended by British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Chowudhury.

Zakir has also been occupied with the initiation and development of other organisations. He is the founder of the Bangladesh Football Association UK and in 1997 he started the league Bangla for local Bangladeshi teams. Moreover in 1996 he founded Sporting Bengal Football Club and was team manager from 1996 to 1998, and to date he has been the most successful manager of the club. He helped the club obtain semi-professional status recognised by the Football Association. Zakir is also an honorary director of Beaumont Athletic Football Club.

Zakir firmly believes in providing opportunities to the less privileged through sport and this has reflected in his desire to ensure that Bangladeshi footballers both here and in Bangladesh get the best opportunity to develop their football skills.