

# Bangladesh Computer Council Realizes Vision 2021 : Digital Bangladesh

Tarique M Barkatullah

Bangladesh Computer Council is an exceptional organization which is working behind all endeavors towards realizing the Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh. Bangladesh Computer Council has received international awards in the form of Manthan Award 2011 as recognition for its contribution in Information and Communication Technology for Digital Inclusion. The award winning contributions are establishment of TIER 3 certified National Data Center and the 3172 computer training class rooms across the country in schools and colleges. BCC has created WiFi zones in Jahangirnagar and Moulana Bhasani University of Science and Technology and cyber centers in 11 Universities.

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) has also established 1013 Union Information Service Centers (UISC) in remote areas where electric supply from the national grid is not available to bridge the digital divide through the creation of the shared access centers for the rural communities. Apart from these BCC has established 147 Community e-Centers at Upazilla with solar power to create a digital inclusive environment for the communities outside the big cities.

The offices of the 7 Divisional Commissioners and 64 District Commissioners have been brought under the local area network connected to internet for providing e-services. This infrastructure is now being utilized to bring the services to the door steps of the citizen by the government through the deployment of applications by A21 Program of the Prime Minister's Office. The close collaboration between BCC and A21 has created a win-win situation for the nation to bring the e-services to the door steps of the common masses.

BCC is now pushing forward with agenda of realizing Digital Bangladesh through projects to establish a countrywide government ICT network to connect all ministries, divisions, departments, organizations and offices under a single network. One such project is financed by the government of Republic of Korea through Korea Exim Bank. The technical evaluation of the

tender under this project is complete and now being reviewed by the appropriate authorities. The approval process for the second phase of this project to be financed by the Government of the Peoples Republic of China is now under process. It is expected that work under both the project will be completed by December 2013 to bring new dimension towards a responsible and for the people government.

Bangladesh Computer Council is creating infrastructures that complies with the international standards and is robust to serve the national needs. Apart from creating infrastructure BCC is also providing training to the government employees as well as private individuals. These trainings are conducted in Dhaka, Sylhet, Faridpur, Rajshahi,

Khulna, Chittagong and Barisal. Special ICT trainings are also conducted for the teachers to train them on using ICT for education and government employees to use ICT in their work process.

Bangladesh Computer Council and A21 Program have chalked out exciting new applications for citizen services running on the newly created infrastructure. The establishment of data center itself is saving the nation considerable sum in foreign exchange by offering the international standard services within the country. ICT experts from BCC continue to play significant role in the design, procurement, deployment of ICT based automation in the government, financial sector and education sector. BCC has contributed to Bangladesh Election Commission in creating National Electoral Role with Photographs, Department of

Immigration and Passports in rolling out Machine Readable Passport and Visa, Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission in recruiting consultant for the Bangabandhu Satellite etc.

BCC is also playing an important role in mainstreaming Bangla in ICT. Committee for Standardization of Bangla for use in ICT headed by the executive director of BCC has

successfully developed national standard for bangla key pad for mobile phone and updated Bangladesh Standard for Bangla Character Set for Information Interchange to comply with Unicode 6.0. These standards has been declared national standard by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution.

BCC's role is growing with the

adaptation of ICT in governance and e-services. BCC now provides web and application hosting along with help desk services for e-services. Due to increase in complexity of the work process requirement for computer science (CS) and computer science & engineering (CSE) graduates in BCC is growing. The required skill sets for job globally and in BCC is now predominantly for CS & CSE graduates. The demand for CS & CSE graduates are growing in government and industry. BCC offers internship programs for 1000 graduates to gain practical skills in government and industry every year.

Bangladesh Computer Council looks forward to meet the challenges of tomorrow. It is working for the development of both the public and private sector to realize the Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh. ■



Bangladesh Computer Council has received international awards in the form of Manthan Award 2011 as recognition for its contribution in Information and Communication Technology for Digital Inclusion