

# Connecting the Government

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Governments are switching from conventional channels of service delivery to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based delivery channels. Today the government is competing with the private enterprises in assuring the quality of services. The technology driven changes in the society are visible in banking sector, where ATMs, debit and credit cards are playing significant role, citizens no longer have to queue to buy airlines/railway tickets or to pay their taxes. Technologies are no longer a part of affluent few but have reached the door steps of the common mass through providing agricultural information to farmers, tele-medicine to sick, e-education to remote village. The government has initiated various project to bring changes in the governance to improve the quality of service and reduce the service delivery time. Two projects are being rolled by the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), an entity of Ministry of ICT to connect the whole of the government through ICT network.

Bangladesh Computer Council and China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) signed a contract to expand the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) connectivity to all the offices up to Upazilla level in 14 months from the date of the commencement of the work. The contract was signed in the presence of the Mustafa Faruque Mohammad, MP and Minister for Ministry of ICT and His Excellency Li Jun, and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China. The project will be financed through US\$ 133million credit from China. The project is subsequent to the first phase being implemented by the Korean financial assistance in the form of loan. These two



Contract signing between BCC and CMEC

projects are the flagship project to realize the Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh.

The CMEC will use the existing BTCL infrastructure to establish the government wide connectivity linked to National Data Center. The connectivity will be supplemented by the seamless Wifi Network in the Bangladesh Secretariat and the Union Parishad Complexes. Video Conferencing up to UNO Offices and selected vocational training institutes, deployment of about 25000 tablets for governance, expansion of existing data center and establishment of disaster recovery site for data center and sub data center at the Bangladesh Secretariat. A modular Data Center infrastructure would be deployed in National Data Center (as the Primary Data Center) to expand the existing data center. A sub Data Center would be deployed in the Secretariat site to serve the employees in that campus. The existing data center infrastructure and the

network would be utilized in the secretariat site. New servers and storage would be deployed. The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) would be established in a remote site. A modular Data Center infrastructure would be deployed to accommodate the IT equipments and network equipments.

Training Centers have been provisioned in 12 Universities to ensure availability of trained network professionals. The project has also provisioned to produce 300 vendor certified network certified professionals to ensure technology transfer for operation and maintenance.

The project also has addressed the issue of training the unskilled labors by utilizing the video conferencing network. Training on plumbing, mason, electrician etc organized at the polytechnic institutes could be shown at upazilla level to update the skill sets of the unskilled labors. This will create opportunity for the local unskilled to join the skilled labor category and open up better avenues for their employment.

The broadband network equipments provisioned in the BTCL exchange countrywide will also create an opportunity for BTCL to provide connectivity to local business and educational institutions through utilizing excess capacity of these equipments.

The major portion of the implementations of the projects is to be completed by the end of 2013. This will bring new dynamism and accountability in the governance and service delivery to the citizen. The benefits ICT will enable the society to get rid from the prejudices of the past and prosper to transform Bangladesh into a middle income country by the year 2021. ■

## Government wide Connectivity Plan

