



## Imagine Cup 2013 Sponsorship

# Microsoft Didn't Keep Their Promise

M. A. Haque Anu

Our students show how meritorious they are in undergraduate level in several times. We observed that they were always successful in various programming contests. Now-a-days they are proving their credits by merit based different type of contests beyond only programming contests like robotics contests, application or software making contests etc. Combining our students, some teams are doing so well in the International level also. Recently Bangladesh chapter of the Imagine Cup 2013 held where BUET championed. Now they have qualified themselves for the International chapter this season. They need to get the first position in the Bangladesh chapter of the championship for qualifying the international championship.

### Imagine Cup

Imagine Cup is the largest IT Olympics for technology students for making applications for various kinds of devices organized and supported by Microsoft Corporation since 2003. This is organized by internationally every year. The International Championship will be held in Russia this year. Generally only one team has the chance to compete in this International championship from each country. To select the best team from each country, a country-wise competition is arranged among all of the teams for the main championship. As we said before, this year BUET was qualified from Bangladesh by the selection process for the main Competition of the Imagine Cup 2013.

From 2003, this competition has been continuing with 5 categories namely software design, embedded development, game design, digital media and windows phone 7. Rather the categories, there are 4 challenges also as IT, Interoperability, Orchard and Windows 7 touch. In 2003, this international competition was held in Spain. The next one was held in Brazil in 2004. In the continuation, the next competitions were held as like before in Japan, India, South Korea, France, Egypt, Poland, the USA and Australia respectively in each year. In this year, the final competition is to be held in saint Pittsburgh in Russia. This is so generous about the competition to say that 3 lac contestants have competed in 2011 from 183 different countries.

### Bangladesh in Imagine Cup

The experience of Bangladesh in Imagine Cup is not so good so far. Whereas our neighbor India was placed in the best 3 in several times, Bangladesh have not done something to tell. In 2011 in New York, Bangladesh was the champion in people's choice department. But in this year, our Bangladeshi team is very contingent to do something better in Russia. Nevertheless the team has shown their skills very good and hopeful so far. Annapurna project of Team Engine had competed last year in the final round in Imagine Cup. In 6 April of this year, the

because they need a third party sponsor for the tour. Microsoft did not keep promises about the sponsorship of them. By checking their official website for Imagine Cup, we have found some official rules in the link <http://compete.imaginecup.com/resources>, where the travel prize and the condition says, "Each Worldwide Finalist and one Mentor per team will be awarded a trip to Worldwide Finals Trip includes round trip coach airfare from major airport closest to Competitor's home, standard hotel accommodations, and select meals during the Worldwide Finals." We are also anxious about the violation of Microsoft offer. But,




Bangladesh chapter of the Imagine Cup Championship 2013 was held in American International University Auditorium, whereas the chief guest was ICT Minister Mostofa Faruk Mohammad.

Before that, the primary selection was processed in Microsoft Bangladesh office. The whole process started in last August. 12 teams were shown their skills and merit in 3 different departments of world citizenship, Invention and Game. 135 teams have completed their registration within 15 March of this year. After a shortlist of the 12 teams from 135, 4 of the teams had got the chance for the final round of the Bangladesh chapter of the Imagine Cup this year.

According to the offer from Microsoft, they are the official sponsor of the Bangladeshi team for all type of accommodations to Russia for the joining of the final round of the Imagine Cup 2013. But the contestants are very hopeless as

we always want the betterment and development of our meritorious students.

There are infinite possibilities to do some great achievement for our country by our meritorious students. But this type of miss-conduction will be disheartened our meritorious students to their possibilities. We don't want any kind of miscommunication like this from Microsoft.

Microsoft Bangladesh Technical Evangelist Tanim Sakib said that Microsoft was not sponsored previous contests for Imagine Cup final in Bangladesh. Last year Microsoft had arranged sponsorship for going abroad for the final round of the Imagine Cup by GPIT. However, this year Microsoft Bangladesh did not get any sponsor for the contestants for any accommodation. He also said that was a great opportunity for the Bangladeshi students to show them up for something big by their merit. That was also a great opportunity for Bangladesh also. 

Feedback : [anu@comjagat.com](mailto:anu@comjagat.com)