September 23, 2000

grameen STAR education

GRAND OPENING

The First Computer Education Franchise

that is Bangladesh's Own!

Number of people under dollar-a-day income is now 1.5 billion. This number is going to double by 2040 if the present trend continues. I firmly believe IT, if properly applied, will be able to stanch and, eventually, reverse this trend.

Professor Muhammad Yunus

I think all students start off with incredible ability and curiosity, and if they're given the opportunity to pursue that, if they're given a chance to see the neat things about the world in terms that they can appreciate and enjoy, their abilities will be reinforced and we'll achieve so much more potential out of the great students we have.

Bill Gates

A PLEDGE FOR CHANGE

Technology has a profound influence over and can bring about transformation in socio-cultural behaviors. This transformation however does not happen overnight, it is a gradual process where one or more elements act as catalyst(s). Bangladesh is no exception in this regard. Here, we encounter a very supportive role played by a devoted group of parents who out of a genuine compassion will sacrifice just about anything and everything to provide quality education to there offspring. The youth on the other hand are creative and energetic, ready to face the challenges of transition with bold anticipation. The bilateral interest over Information Technology of these two generations is an indication of a social transformation that is about to happen. All we need now is to educate our youth in Information Technology. This itself is our objective behind opening Grameen Star Education nationwide.

Two major investments an individual must make towards his/her education are : time and money. The latter, in most cases in our country, are derived from parental savings. The throughput is a successful career that helps sustain onself as well as satisfies their ambitions. The design objectives of our course modules are largely dependent on these considerations. The global trends of the Information Technology also demand a huge pool of professionals at a very short time.

The ever-changing world of Information Technology demands attaining a certain level of expertise at a minimal time. We need to give effort and also make the best use of time to attain this.

Grameen Star Education has developed its course duration based on the above issues discussed. The three courses we are currently offering range in duration from eight months to a year. The length of each individual session is adjusted to complement the overall duration of the course - and that is how we have devised such short courses. We intend to develop professionals well suited to the global market. We have confidence in your, our youth, we believe in their creativity and we understand that with proper direction they can be made just as competent as others canWe would like to share with them the philosophy `Strong Determination' makes path of life smoother.

Training in Information Technology is expensive - the technical professionals and the technology itself demand a considerable amount of financing. Despite this, considering the reality in Bangladesh, our course fees have been set at a minimal price. The length of the course in terms of the total number of training-hours offered and the overall duration of the course itself justify the amount of the course fee. The rate is even lower at the divisional and district level.

We are determined to maintain high standards in terms of the course contents, the instructors' knowledge and teaching skills, and the overall quality of the education centres. We will not allow any compromise in this regard. Our operational activities will include upgrading of courseware to keep apace with technology trends and will also provide on-line testing facility and professional certification examinations along with other quality control measures.

Our success has come about with the cumulative support from various segments - the advice of the Grameen Software governing body, the cooperation and help of those affiliated with the Education Centres in their capacity as Franchisee and the dedicated support of various organizations and respected intellectuals. On this auspicious day we are delighted to express our warm thanks and appraisal to all and look forward to the continued cooperation and good will.

Sohel Sharif
Managing Director
Grameen Software Limited

Our ability to learn and translate that learning into action is the ultimate advantage. Countries must educate their citizens, must train their employees, and educators must teach their students the skills necessary to thrive in today's world.

Cisco Systems

...law and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstance, institutions must advance also, and keep pace with the times.

Thomas Jefferson

STEPPING INTO A PROMISING NEW ERA

When people all over the world are embracing the new millennium with joyous celebrations, we, despite the adversities of being a third world nation are pleased to tune in to the universal chanting. Our quest for hope and prosperity are global. On January 1st, 2000, we marked the coming of the Millennium by presenting to you **Grameen Software Limited (GSL)** with a commitment to exploring and availing the nation with exciting new opportunities of the Information Age. We seek your sincere support and help in our endeavor and urge you to join us the motto - **"Develop Bangladesh"** GSL's newest contribution to the IT boom here is **Grameen Star Education (GSE)** - a nationwide computer training program that will cultivate a skilled and competent pool of IT professionals.

GSE's mission is to introduce world-class IT training all over Bangladesh at a reasonable cost. We hope this program will motivate others and anticipate its popularity to spread beyond the boundaries of our country. Our pursuit is to groom a competent pool of Information Specialists suited to cater for both the local and global IT Industry. We believe that the potentials of IT training are not confined by age limitation. Those who are interested, we would like to offer them an exciting range of programs to choose from. Unlike other lines of profession, the absence of an academic certificate does not stop one from the opportunities to enhance his career. GSE Franchise centres are designed to assist those who are interested in building IT career. We believe that the privileges of Grameen Star should not be limited to the urban cities only but to those all over the country. Our vision is to make the IT sector of Bangladesh competetive in the global market by developing quality human resources.

Grameen Star Education is the very first Computer Education Franchise that is Bangladesh's own, where modules of international standard will be offered. It will launch its operation by offering three unique course curriculums - Grameen Star Certified Software Professional (GCSP), Grameen Star Certified Network Engineer (GCNE) and Grameen Star Certified e-Ttechnology Professional (GCEP). GSE also intends to introduce new modules in near future, including one for multimedia that will conform to local and international demands. On-line testing for these certifications will soon be introduced. Our course curriculum is designed to build IT professionals, capable of thriving in this competitive field. GSE has modules for developing communication skills, theoretical knowledge and hands-on practical training through lab work. The students will get four hours of theoretical and practical training daily. Another design objective of these concise GSE modules is to save the students' precious time, effort and money.

We also offer complementary training to orient them with Information Technology. The features and benefits of Grameen Star Education are:

- ★ Monetary value of time
- ★ Quick completion time
- ★ Courses leading to Professional Certifications
- ★ Latest courseware - to be continuously updated
- ★ Highest value for money (absolutely cost effective course fees)
- ★ Central examination system (ensuring same quality all over Bangladesh)
- ★ Internship and placement opportunities
- ★ Effective Lab Sessions which will be simulated from real job situations
- ★ Pragmatic Learning Methodology to ensure practical knowledge as well as conceptual soundness

The pool of GSE faculty is a selection of IT experts from home and abroad whose proficiency in training are not only assessed and evaluated but also reinforced through Training of Trainer (TOT) program. We have taken proper measures to ensure that all education centres maintain the same GSE standard of training. The Grameen Star certified professionals will get job placement assistance at home and abroad through a Placement Cell. having a placement service for the international market is justifiable with the intent; firstly, it will provide financial stability to the professionals and their families, secondly, it will contribute to the overall economy of the nation, and thirdly and most significantly since it will empower us in a nation to represent ourselves in the global arena and earn a secure position in today's challenging world through merit and professional competency. It would be pertinent to mention here, we have taken special considerations, so that Grameen Star certified professionals could peruse higher education or University Degree.

Lastly, we would like to thank those individuals contributing towards the IT revolution in this country. We would also like to extend our warm thanks to the people from all walks of life, television & news media and all of our Franchisees, whose noble contributions and cooperation has thoroughly motivated us. We are touched by their cooperative attitude. Above all we would like to engrave that word in the heart - the great Allah has said " **Those who help themselves, I help them**" - with the strength of this firm conviction and with your cooperation, we want to put our steps ahead and keep going.

Major (retd.) Manzurul Haque, G
Chief Operating Officer - Franchise
Grameen Software Limited

Existing Centres

- Dhaka
  - Panthapath
  - Lalmatia
  - Dhanmondi
  - Eskaton
  - Shantinagar
  - Shangsad Ave.
  - Jatrabari
  - Mirpur
  - Uttara
- Chittagong
  - Agrabad
  - Jamal Khan
  - Nasirabad
- Savar
- Narayangonj
- Rangpur
- Sylhet
- Comilla
- Khulna

Proposed Centres

- Dhaka
  - Gulshan
  - Motijheel
  - Rampura
  - Azimpur
  - Cantonment
  - Old Dhaka
- Chittagong
  - Lalkhan Bazar
- Jessore

&

Grameen Star Franchisees will be appointed at all other Districts of Bangladesh VERY SOON

Wishing relentless progress and prosperity of Grameen Star Education

ITS Computers Ltd. · Grameen IT Park Ltd. · GrameenPhone · MAHIN APPARELS LTD. · Crystal Insurance Company Limited · ExecuTrain. · netgen LTD. · Aztec Limited

Board of Directors of Grameen Software Ltd.

1.	Professor Muhammad Yunus	Chairman, Grameen Software Ltd.
2.	Mr. Khalid Shams	Deputy Managing Director, Grameen Bank
3.	Mr. A. A. Qureshi	Managing Director, Grameen Fund
4.	Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua	General Manager, Grameen Bank
5.	Mr. Emdadul Haque	General Manager, Grameen Fund
6.	Ms. Nazneen Sultana	Managing Director, Grameen Communications
7.	Mr. Altaf Hossain	Deputy General Manager, Grameen Fund
8.	Mr. Sohel Sharif	Managing Director, Grameen Software Ltd.
9.	Mr. Abdullah Al-Mahmud	Director, Grameen Software Ltd.

An Aztec Production. Tel: 934773