

IT & TELECOM

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FIBER TO THE HOME TECHNOLOGY

Future of connectivity

IT & TELECOM REPORT

Fiber To The Home (FTTH) Council Asia Pacific, a nonprofit organisation, on Sunday organised a workshop on development of fiber infrastructure in Bangladesh.

With FTTH technology, premises are typically connected at 100Mbps+ and can easily be increased to 1Gbps and beyond. As a result 'Triply Play' services, which are voice, video and data, can be carried through one single fiber to any premise.

Leading technology companies, ISPs, network service providers, mobile operators, Wimax operators, government regulators and other stakeholders like financial institutions, property developers participated in the workshop.

It brought together leading FTTH experts from abroad and local industries to share their experiences. It also offered a great networking environment while creating awareness of the FTTH technology and energising the technology market of the country.

The council's membership compromises of prominent technology companies and operators such as Google, Telkom Indonesia, Cisco Systems, Sumitomo, Fujikura, Huawei, Samsung, Sanku Advanced Components, Dura-line.

It organises seminars and workshops across the Asia Pacific region to bring together industry stakeholders and foreign experts to assist local markets.

It decided to hold the daylong workshop here as Bangladesh has made strong strides in the FTTH movement.

Hasan Munasir Choudhury, general manager of the FTTH Council Asia Pacific said "at the FTTH Council APAC Bangladesh workshop, we tried to develop a common platform where industry leading experts from all over the globe can share ideas and best practices with local counterparts to strengthen the FTTH deployment, ensuring sustainable solutions for the country."

Chairman of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory



Participants pose for photo at the workshop.

Commission Sunil Kanti Bose inaugurated the event. Md. Nazrul Islam Khan, secretary, ministry of ICT was also present as special guest.

FTTH Council Asia Pacific President Monique Morrow, Vice President Dr. Bernard Lee, Secretary Yoshihiro Ishibashi and Director Anil Pande along with many FTTH Council APAC delegates were also present.

Munasir later in an e-mail interview said that FTTH is a technology being deployed globally to provide high speed internet, video and voice service to customer premise using fiber optic cable.

"As our bandwidth requirement increases day by day and high definition contents, video on demand services become widely available; FTTH is the technology which is ready to cater such services requiring high bandwidth."

He also informed that Asia Pacific has seen the highest growth in deployment of FTTH with 58 million subscribers and it is expected to reach 140 million by 2015.

"The mission of the FTTH Council Asia-Pacific is to accelerate the adoption of optical fiber access by all consumers and organisations that provide and use broadband services.

It provides factually based education and promotion in order to enhance the sustainable quality of life," he said adding that therefore they arrange workshops, seminars and conferences throughout the APAC region to promote FTTH technology, educate and

create awareness.

"We have received a very positive response from Bangladesh. Apart from our foreign experts, we also had multiple presentations from local service providers who shared their experience with FTTH in Bangladesh."

Munasir said FTTH deployment is having an impact on the fixed network services in Bangladesh.

"We are finally getting to see structured underground networks, which may eventually eliminate overhead cluttered wires in the coming future. With FTTH, service providers can soon start to provide multiple services using single connectivity to the user premise. These FTTH networks will be the foundation for new local content services where data speeds will no longer be an issue."

"Bangladesh will continue to see growth in deployment of the FTTH network. From the regulatory perspective, the moment service providers are allowed to provide IPTV, HDTV, video on demand and other local contents, we will start to see more rollouts of FTTH network as there will be a high demand for accessing such services," he said.

FTTH is also environmentally friendly; there is no requirement of electricity between the service providers' equipment and the customer premise equipment.

"Imagine what an impact it will have in Bangladesh since we are facing challenge in the power generation sector."

When asked, he said FTTH networks are based on an architecture called PON (Passive Optical Network). Data is transmitted through light signals via the optical fiber from service provider equipment, which is known as OLT (Optical Line Terminal) and reaches to subscriber side by connecting to an ONT/ONU/Modem (Optical Network Terminal/Unit).

"In the PON based FTTH network all the accessories used between the OLT and the ONT/ONU and non-electric, as in the products are all passive. Thus, there is no requirement of electricity for this FTTH network between the OLT and the ONT/ONU/Modem."

Munasir said there are five challenges in FTTH network deployment, which they call 5 Cs- Competency: Manpower needs to be competent to deploy and maintain the network.

Construction: New guideline and best practices are required to deploy fiber up to the customer premises.

Customer Device: Up to date digital home equipment to fully enjoy benefits of FTTH.

Content: New content is needed to capitalise the additional speed offered.

Customer awareness: Customers are unknown of the new capabilities and potential of FTTH.

"Some of the challenges have been addressed in Bangladesh while there has been good progress on others. Over all, we expect to see a continuous growth in FTTH connectivity in Bangladesh," Munasir said.

Facebook nixes rumours on copyright shift

AFP, San Francisco

Facebook is telling its users to ignore rumors spreading on the social network that they need to post a statement to protect their copyrights of their comments and other materials.

"There is a rumor circulating that Facebook is making a change related to ownership of users' information or the content they post to the site," Facebook said in a "fact check" notice on its website Monday.

"This is false. Anyone who uses Facebook owns and controls the content and information they post, as stated in our terms. They control how that content and information is shared. That is our policy, and it always has been."

The notice came after the copyright notice went viral -- suggesting that a posted statement was needed to protect copyrights on

Facebook. The hoax had been around in the past but resurfaced after Facebook announced changes to its privacy policies last week.

Users began repeating these posts, which stated, "In response to the new Facebook guidelines I hereby declare that my copyright is attached to all of my personal details, illustrations, comics, paintings, professional photos and videos, etc... This will place them under protection of copyright laws."

Warnings about the so-called "chain letter hoax" were issued as far back as June from the security firm Sophos and others.

And noted technology blogger Robert Scoble poured scorn Monday on those falling for the trick, saying on his Facebook page: "If you are posting about copyright on Facebook and you haven't done your research you are an idiot."



PHOTO: AFP

Microsoft CEO defends its innovation record, financial results

REUTERS, Washington

Microsoft Corp Chief Executive Steve Ballmer defended his company's record on innovation and financial performance at the annual shareholders' meeting, but conceded that he should have moved faster to get into the booming tablet market dominated by Apple Inc's iPad.

Bill Gates, co-founder and now chairman of the world's largest software company, was one of the first to champion tablet-sized devices more than 10 years ago, but Microsoft failed to come up with a product that worked as well as the iPad. Gates was silent throughout the meeting, attended by about 450 shareholders.

"We're innovating on the seam between software and hardware," said Ballmer, asked why his company had fallen behind rival Apple. "Maybe we should have done that earlier."

A month ago, Microsoft launched the Surface tablet - its first own-brand computer - but has not revealed sales figures.

In the tablet market, "we see nothing but a sea of upside," Ballmer said, an acknowledgement that until now Microsoft has effectively had zero presence in the tablet market.

"I feel pretty good about our level of innovation," he added.

Ballmer said smartphones running Microsoft's new Windows software were selling four times as much as they did at this time last year. Microsoft has never given sales numbers of Windows phones, primarily made by Nokia, Samsung and HTC.



Steve Ballmer

Windows currently has 2 to 4 percent of the global smartphone market, according to various independent data providers. Its overall market share will not likely grow in proportion to its own sales, given that sales of other smartphones - mostly running Google's Android system - are also growing quickly.

Ballmer, flanked by Gates and Chief Financial Officer Peter Klein, was asked by several shareholders to explain Microsoft's lackluster share price, which has been stuck for a decade, and has been outperformed by Apple and Google Inc stock in recent years. "I understand your comment," he told one shareholder. He went on to explain that Microsoft had "done a phenomenal job of driving product volumes" and was focusing on profiting from that growth.

He suggested that whether investors recognized that value at any given time was out of his hands.

"The stock market's kind of a funny thing," he said, adding that Microsoft had handed back \$10 billion in dividends and share buybacks to investors in the last fiscal year.

Several shareholders at the meeting in Bellevue, an upscale suburb of Seattle, complimented the executives on how they had grown and managed the company.

Microsoft's shares rose almost 18 percent during fiscal 2012, which ended in June of this year, compared with a 3 percent rise in the Standard & Poor's 500.

Despite such fluctuations, Microsoft's shares stand around the same level they did 10 years ago.



An engineer performs a demonstration of a drone used to visualise camera effects during the press conference inaugurating the new Technicolor research and development centre in Cesson-Sevigne near the central western city of Rennes in France on November 22.

PHOTO: AFP

Nokia litigates against BlackBerry-maker over patents

IT & TELECOM DESK

Young IT professionals, with the help of sanitation experts will go for an intensive brainstorming and programming marathon session to develop innovative IT applications to tackle the poverty in Bangladesh.

More than 150 participants, mostly IT experts and university students have already registered to participate in the two-day Sanitation Hackathon from November 30, 2012 at the Ruposhi Bangla hotel in Dhaka.

The event is being organised by Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank.

This intensive coding marathon is aimed at finding innovative IT solutions



to address the lack of access to basic sanitation by 2.6 billion people in the world. The Sanitation Hackathon follows last year's Water Hackathon which was organised by the World Bank.

The overall goal of the Sanitation Hackathon is to form a community of IT professionals and sanitation experts that will collaborate in future to address

challenges in the sanitation sector.

Lack of access to basic sanitation causes the death of approximately 4,000 children a day and billions of dollars in economic losses. Using new technology like data maps, mobile games, SMS services, crowd sourcing and opening up data can also help to solve various other development problems.

Registration form and details are available at its website www.hackathonbd.com.

The Sanitation Hackathon will take place simultaneously on the same weekend in Lahore, Jakarta, Cape Town, Dakar, Lima, Manila, Dar es Salaam, Pune, various locations in North America, Hartford, Helsinki and London.

Samsung Galaxy products infringe Apple patent: Dutch court

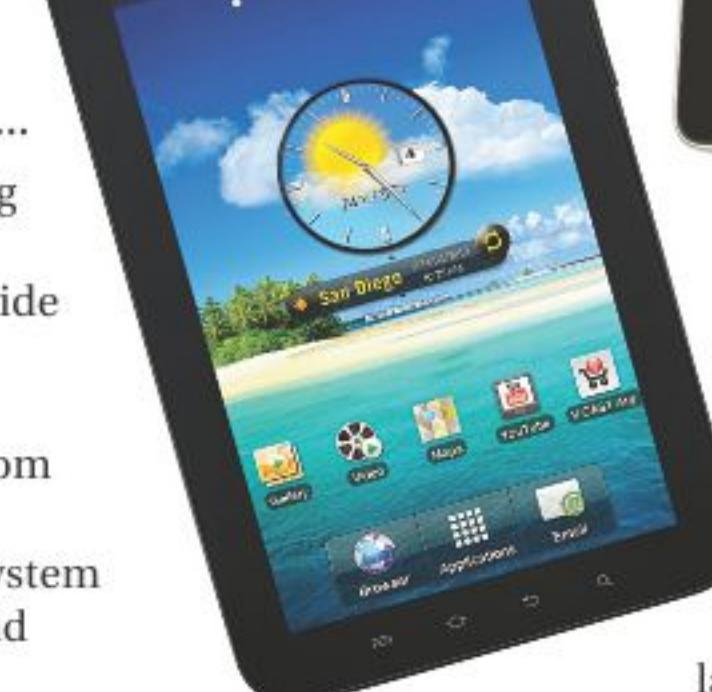
REUTERS, Amsterdam

A Dutch court ruled on Wednesday that some of Samsung Electronics' Galaxy smartphones and tablets infringe an Apple patent in the latest round of the two firms' worldwide battle.

The court ordered Samsung Electronics to pay Apple damages, determined by how much profit it has made from the sales.

The patent dispute concerns the Android operating system versions 2.2.1 to 3.0 used on Samsung's Galaxy tablets and smartphones, the court said.

Samsung and Apple, the world's top two smartphone makers, are locked in patent disputes in at least ten countries as they vie to dominate the lucrative mobile market and win over customers with their latest gadgets.



Samsung, the world's top maker of smartphones, infringed Apple patents to make its smartphones and tablets, a US trade panel judge said in a preliminary decision issued last month.

Samsung won a court case last month in the Netherlands, when a Dutch court ruled the company did not infringe an Apple patent by using certain multi-touch techniques on some of the Samsung Galaxy smartphones and tablet computers.