



PRIME MINISTER  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
BANGLADESH  
22 Agrahayan 1419  
06 December 2012



Message

I am happy to learn that the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is hosting 'Digital World 2012' in Dhaka on 6-8 December 2012.

The present government has relentlessly been working to implement 'Digital Bangladesh' to fulfill its election pledge. A separate ministry styled as Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has been established. Four thousand 582 Union Information Service and Community E-service centers have been set up at 147 upazillas to deliver internet service to the rural people. Besides, 8 thousand village post offices and 500 upazilla post offices are being converted to E-centers.

We have set up multi-media class rooms and computer laboratories. The number of mobile SIM users rose to 10 I hope that the 'Digital World 2012' will play an important role in implementing 'Vision 2021'. Bangladesh will soon be emerged as an information technology-based, modern and progressive country. Let us come to build a 'Sonar Bangla' as envisioned by the greatest Bangalee of all time, father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

I wish, 'Digital World 2012' a grand success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina



Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh

This vibrant country was founded on the simple yet profound idea of equality and equity, a dream of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. That dream is a reality made possible through technological innovations under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter, Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Since 2009, the 'Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh' has been the roadmap leading Bangladesh towards economic growth and national development using ICT. 'Digital World 2012', hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MoICT), is expected to track the success and portray the journey of our nation. Technology is not a tool anymore. It facilitates improving the eco-system to empower, employ and inspire people. As we encourage entrepreneurship, outsourcing work, and empowering women, quality in education, disability addressed work environment. Incorporating the marginal people to the holistic plan we have address natural disaster, national crisis. To build a prosperous digital Bangladesh with the status of a middle-income country by 2021, today we have a consistent GDP growth rate of around 6% for the last few years.

Bangladesh has reasons to be proud and confident. For the last four years, our Government is moving forward with a principle commitment to deliver citizen services. The people are now enjoying their lives and adapted the technology. We are progressing towards achieving its Millennium Development Goals. Our foreign remittance is growing from almost 10 million expatriate workers and with the capital Dhaka ranking third in freelance IT and IT-enabled services (ITES) outsourcing globally.

Most significantly more than 95 million people are using mobile phones, which mean 60% of country population is now connected. The country has attained initial readiness for service delivery using ICTs. According to the Election Manifesto of Bangladesh Awami League we have completed digitization up to Upazila level. Now, we are extending ICT services at union level and it will continue. Rural people are now in a stage to enjoy the facility of digitization. The next generation youth will provide the "demographic dividend" and give strength to forge the economy forward. The unique geographical location between three large consumer bases - India, China and the ASEAN region - spots us as an extraordinary capacity to expand its economy.

The vision of transforming government services to e-Services is citizen-centric and pro-poor. It is improving the lives of the common citizens. Since, in this case, the work started with the end customers' perspective, the largest citizens' benefits were achieved with very little investment in hardware, software and human resources support. Rural women using mobile phones; young men and women in the peri-urban area working as mobile and computer operators at the local market; and the technologically bustling urban centers with social and electronic media flourishing - are the usual sights and scenes of Bangladesh. We are in the midst of a technological revolution where Government of Bangladesh with its private and non-profit partners are bringing about transformational change among the citizens and service providers.

Digital World, 2012: Knowledge to Prosperity is an excellent opportunity for Bangladeshi innovators and technology leaders to demonstrate to the global community on our successes and knowledge creation to this critical sector. The event will allow different sectors with their respective ideas, initiatives, programs to be showcased for further knowledge generation and experience sharing.

I also believe that this event will create a great platform to promote greater corporation among the countries of the world through networking of the individuals and practitioners engaged in the development area.

Joy Bangla, Joy bangabandhu  
Long live Bangladesh

Begum Matia Chowdhury



Executive Director  
Bangladesh Computer Council

Heartiest welcome to the premiere edition of Digital World 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This Exposition will be held on 6-8 December 2012 to share the best ideas and thoughts, to learn from the best practices and to build pro-active partnerships and building networks amongst the experts and practitioners of information and communication technology for development within the country and globally.

This Expo is hosting over 28 Seminars on current issues of adapting ICT with the participation of more than 100 exhibitors. The display of local innovation and services will surely benefit from the exchange of ideas between local, regional and international experts, national policy makers and practitioners. We firmly believe that ICT is a powerful tool to achieve good governance, sustainable development and ever reaching economic growth of our country. Proper integration of ICT in our life can lead to poverty reduction and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

This is the month of our Victory towards independence. I have full belief that Digital World 2012 will definitely pave the way to build prosperous and knowledge based society imbued by the guiding mantra of Digital Bangladesh. The realization of Digital Bangladesh will materialize the vision of our valiant freedom fighters who have laid down their life to present us the opportunity of prosperity through their victory on 16th December 1971. We have faltered on our journey to achieve the dream of prosperous Bangladesh envisioned by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Let us seize this window of opportunity shown to us by the daughter of Father of the Nation, the Honorable Prime Minister H.E Sheikh Hasina through Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh.

Digital World Conference will create an opportunity to learn about progress in Bangladesh towards reaching our vision for a vibrant ICT ecosystem through Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh. We will hear about our investments in infrastructure, new innovative applications that are bringing better education, creating socio-economic development and ensuring equitable health services to unreached areas of our population. We will also explore new ways to drive the reach and relevancy of our technology investments and we will discuss how to meet the challenges that remain as we seek to transform our nation into a technology driven prosperous Bangladesh.

I warmly thank all the foreign delegates, sponsors, policy makers, teachers & academics, ICT Associations and Trade bodies, public and private organizations, individuals and media for their contribution in organizing this international conference. I welcome all to visit Digital World 2012 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) to get the feel of our progress and to materialize Branding Bangladesh.

Dr. Jnanendra N Biswas  
Additional Secretary



6-8 December 2012

KNOWLEDGE  
TO  
PROSPERITY

Every major historical transformation needs an enabler. Today, advances in technology have left us in no doubt that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is the leading enabler not only for global competitiveness and driving innovation but also for nation's own prosperity and development. Footprints of ICT can be seen in the massive growth witnessed in the recent years across sectors including Citizen Service delivery, Education, Healthcare, Financial Services, Business Process Outsourcing, FMCG etc. In recent times, technology is helping government to accelerate its services and development activities more transparently than ever. Notably, the relationship between technology and the economy have been viewed as a one-way street-change, driven by innovation which has a significant influence on progression of society. Indeed, some economists are of the opinion that the economy's long-run growth rate is determined exclusively by the rate of technological advancement driven largely and mostly by utility & innovation.

As perceived the latitude of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) were recognized by the world leaders as a key development enabler in World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005 (Tunis Commitment). In the Poverty Reduction Strategy of Bangladesh called National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction 2009 (NSAPR-II), ICTs were similarly identified and given due importance. The new government in 2009, came up with new vision 'Digital Bangladesh by 2021', a blend of ICT & modern technology along with political goals as a pro-poor tool to eradicate poverty, establish good governance, ensure social equity through quality education, healthcare and law enforcement for all, and prepare the country for climate change. The government has articulated the Digital Bangladesh vision in certain terms, started the process of leadership development to realize this vision and launched a number of initiatives which have demonstrated to policy makers and citizens alike the benefits of utilizing ICTs for service delivery. Moreover, the government has laid the foundation for an enabling environment with an actionable ICT Policy 2009, Right to Information Act 2009 and ICT Act 2009.

In last 4 years, there has been a significant growth in the access & penetration of communication technology in Bangladesh. Annual growth rate of Internet usage is 20% which has consecutively increased every year. Internet subscriber penetration by population & household has gained numbers like never before. Mobile service penetration in 56% now with a record of 10% increase rate than last year. Fixed line penetration is 4.5% whereas there are 2.8 million Facebook users till now in 2012 which is ever increasing with remarkable activities. Overall the society has proved to be generous adapter of digital and information technology for betterment of livelihood with purpose to excel in education, income & networking.

In the last five year planning (6th) Bangladesh Government has highly emphasized on the ICT development of Bangladesh. ICT sector is marked as one of the 'Monitor able Core Target Areas' which should have been developed by the end of 6th five 5 year plan. These target areas have been determined based on the MDG and Vision-2021 goals. In this 5 year plan, it is mentioned that Bangladesh Government has to accomplish 10 major targets in ICT sector to advance towards attaining Vision 2021 and MDG goals.

ICT Ministry under the Govt. of Bangladesh took various measures as started earlier and now it is the "call of the time" to materialize the enthusiastic ICT goals, which in turn to be reflected in the accelerated improvements in the rankings of international ICT indices.

In the recent years Bangladesh has witnessed a sea-change in the public service delivery mechanism and the organizational thinking behind it. Riding on the wave of increasing mobile penetration and an exuberantly forward-looking youth population, the government's digital initiatives have forced the entrenched institutional supporters of the status quo to rethink how businesses operate; public offices function and citizens interact. All these have been made possible through indigenous innovation and contextualization which was mostly independent of the technologically advanced western prescriptions. This is an exemplary case of a developing nation coming to grips with technology and turning it into a life-changing tool for millions of citizens. An annual practice and knowledge Conference is essential to showcase Bangladesh's achievements to further learn from its global peers and to provide a forum for free-flow of ideas and concepts enriching current thoughts on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for development. Digital World 2012, with the inaugural years' Conference focus on using and leveraging ICTs and modern technology to boost up the economy, has potential to be an annual event with the objective of reinforcing technology and knowledge-centric growth and needs of Bangladesh vis-à-vis the world of technology to mainstream ICTs. With the above activities, the mainstream youth and women will be empowered to open gates of self development and employment.

The conference shall provide a unique opportunity for the nation and globe to come together and exchange ideas and solutions focused on the key element of all technological advancement: The Citizen.  
From the Digital World 2012 Secretariat



Minister  
Ministry of Information and Communication Technology  
Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh

On behalf of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Government of Bangladesh it is indeed my pleasure to welcome you to the "Digital World 2012", a place to showcase Bangladesh's achievements to further learn from its global peers and to provide a forum for free-flow of ideas and concepts enriching current thoughts on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for development.

Initiated by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, this event celebrates national enthusiasm and achievements along with commemorating Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh. Bangladesh has made significant gains to realize the dreams of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under the able leadership of his daughter the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Promotion of ICT innovations and its application for socio-economic development is an important policy thrust of the government and Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh. Realizing reality we have taken initiatives such as formulating ICT Policy 2009 with action items, implementation of the ICT Act, enacting the Right to Information Act, establishing the independent Information Commission etc. We have mainstreamed ICT as a pro-poor tool so that we can empower citizens to eradicate poverty, establishing good governance by delivering better citizens services through promoting quality education, healthcare and law enforcement for all etc. in general and Millennium Development Goal (MDG) in particular.

The government's digital initiatives like e-service centers across 64 districts have made services accessible and increased functional citizen charter. For deeper penetration, in rural areas 4698 Union Information & Service Center (UISC) has been successfully established to deliver service in the grassroots level. The Government has also established 3172 computer labs with internet facilities to ensure quality education in the country.

Government's prime responsibility is to develop infrastructure and create a level playing ground for all to participate in the mainstream development process. Only the combined effort of private-public can make a dream comes true. The most important achievement is, the government with its realistic, time bound and cordial effort to take ICT sector further has been successful create strong trust factor in the private sector. We believe our brilliant and vibrant private sector will come forward to make best use of their talent and will take this far ahead to reach the economic goal and for the social development. In fact they have already started performing accordingly.

In last 4 years, there has been a significant growth in the access and penetration of communication technology in Bangladesh. Number of Mobile phone users has been doubled, number of internet users have reached close to 30 million. The launching of 3G cellular technology on this October 2012 will provide newer opportunity to improve the quality of e-services. I am sure these tools are encouraging our burgeoning young generation to bloom as entrepreneurs. All those initiatives have already put its positive impact on the poverty reduction down sliding the number from 40% to 31%.

I express my gratitude to all the eminent ICT experts/leaders present here from around the globe be here today. Sharing of your knowledge, experience and success stories will make us more confident to face global challenges in the days to come.

Once again I warmly welcome all distinguished guest from road and abroad, dignitaries, speakers, exhibitors, participants and media personnel to Digital World 2012.

I wish Digital World 2012 a success.  
Joy Bangla. Joy Bangabandhu.

Mostafa Faruque Mohammad, MP



Secretary  
Ministry of Information and Communication Technology  
&  
National Project Director  
Access to Information, Prime Minister office

Over the years, Information Communication Technology (ICT) has replenished our lives with its countless blessings. It is now time to grasp the global digital practice to transform ourselves and to compete internationally. At the same time this event will add positive value to materialize our aim. Digital World 2012 is focusing on knowledge to prosperity.

Technological progress has provided us with more efficient means for going forward. No wonder, ICT now is the major tool for national & international advancement. It has brought every nation under one umbrella. I strongly believe this event will uphold national's enthusiasm and achievements in ICT sector to the world and will make our position stronger than before. At the same time it will make us more confident to achieve the goal of Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh.

This conference is the ideal place for gathering knowledge on Digital initiatives, national ICT progress, policies, projects & upcoming measures. International guest speakers will sermon on the international ICT trend, universal ICT practices, innovative digital technology, smart society & many other issues related with economy & governance. The three days conference will comprise thematically inter-related conferences in line with the set objectives of the event. Focused workshops, seminars, discussion and exhibition would provide exceptional opportunity for showcasing innovative ICT products, solutions and applications. The conference should accommodate policy-makers, senior government officials, industry leaders, international development agencies, civil society, academia, and investors along with general people from urban & rural areas.

Government Officials and Policy Makers will portray Bangladesh's achievements so far & future attempts. They will be showcasing & sharing government initiatives from home and abroad. Presence of Development Partners will ensure observation & participate from the policy level to understand the capacity of the country, the stand or the position of the country in the ICT sector, the resources available, etc. The conference will help mobilize financial resources from them to support projects in the ICT field.

Eminent National & International Speakers will share their knowledge, experience, success stories, future plans, etc in the Conference, Workshop, Seminar, etc that would work positively to set future course of action for the Industry Association/Trade Bodies participating at the event. Involvement of National & International Business Community will support the summit as partners & supporters. Many links of co-operation between the organizations from different countries will be developed through this international event.

Bilateral & multilateral meetings during the summit between the trade visitors & local companies will create scope for further business in the days to come and will put direct impact on achieving our goal. And of course the showcase of innovation/state of art products/services/solutions/projects related to ICT by the participating exhibitors will put direct impact on their business volume and profitability.

Last but not the least coverage of the event in the National & International media will bring our initiative under the spotlight adding intangible value towards our ICT industry. I warmly welcome all to the Digital World 2012 with strong believe that this event will create scope for further learning from its global peers and to provide a forum for free-flow of ideas and concepts enriching current thoughts on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for development.

I thank Digital World Secretariat for their best effort, ICT Associations, Trade bodies, public and private organization, individuals and media for their contribution in organizing this event. I welcome all to visit Digital World 2012 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center contributing towards Realizing Digital Nation.  
I wish Digital World 2012 all the success.

Md. Nazrul Islam Khan



Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)



Access to Information (a2i) programme