

First round of the 3rd CFICC has been formally inaugurated



Dr. Ananya Raihan is in his speech at the inauguration ceremony of 3rd CFICC

First round of the third Citi Financial IT Case Competition (CFICC) has formally been inaugurated by Architect Yeafesh Osman, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT in Dhaka. Mr. Rashed Maqsood, Managing Director and Citi Country Officer, Citibank, N.A.- Bangladesh; Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, D.Net; Mr. Mahaboob Zaman, President, BASIS and Mr. Munir Hasan, General Secretary, BdOSN were present at the inauguration ceremony.

CFICC is funded by the Citi Foundation and jointly organized by D.Net and Citibank, N.A., Bangladesh to provide the young and talented IT and business students an opportunity to work together and develop innovative software and IT solutions to meet the increasing demand of the country's financial sector. CFICC will help students to improve their leadership skills and apply knowledge on the use of information technology in the work environment. Bangladesh Association of Software Information Services (BASIS) and Bangladesh Open Source Network (BdOSN) are the local partners of this initiative. An independent panel of judges, comprising of industry experts, practitioners and representatives from the academia will be supervising and assessing the case solutions based on pre-determined project evaluation guidelines.

This year, sixty five teams submitted their projects through online registration, of which 25 teams have been nominated for the first round. Top 10 teams will be selected from this round to compete in 2nd round. Five teams will be chosen to compete for the top positions from there. The winners will be awarded in October 2011 through a gala event.

The Honorable State Minister for Science and ICT Architect Yeafesh Osman expressed his appreciation for this joint-initiative organized by Citi and D.Net given one-of-its-kind platform where university students are able to gain first-hand experience from the challenges, complexities and requirements of the practical life. He said "In future, these participants will be able to contribute better towards the country's development."



Participants are presenting their project during first round

Mr. Rashed Maqsood said "We are committed to the development of young Bangladeshi talents. The Citi Financial IT Case Competition will give our university students a platform to unleash their potentiality and creativity."

Dr. Ananya Raihan said "We are happy that we are able to continue this initiative for the third consecutive years and hopefully we will be able to organize CFICC in future."

Sharing Findings of Infomediaries: Brokers of Public Access



Participants at the panel discussion with policy makers

D.Net is conducting an international research titled “Global Impact Study of Public Access to ICTs” supported by the Global Libraries initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The project is implemented by IDRC in partnership with the Technology & Social Change Group (TASCHA) at the University of Washington Information School. The study is being conducted in Bangladesh, Philippines, Brazil, Chile, and Lithuania at a time. For this Global Impact study, D.Net prepared an online survey platform and collected data at 250 public access venues (telecentre/library/cybercafe) from all over the country.

Mr. Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, BRACNet; Mr. Mohammad Abdur Rab, HP; Mr. Md. Shahid Uddin Akbar, Bangladesh Telecenter Network (BTN); Mr. Md. Zakir Hasnat, Agriculture Information Service (AIS); Mr. Mohammad Maroof, Agriculture Information Service (AIS); Mr. Md. Salahuddin and Mr. Md. Mohshin Sarker, Community Information Center (Innovations, Marketing Division), Grameenphone Ltd; Dr. Sohel Iqbal, COAST TRUST; Ms. Priyanka Kabir, A2I programme, Prime Minister Office (PMO); Mr. Mridul Chowdhury, mpower; Mr. Mohammad Kawsar Uddin, Bangladesh ICT Journalist Forum; Engr. Syed Ziaul Huque, Dhaka Ahashania Mission participated at the discussion session.



Participants at the panel discussion with Infomediaries

As part of the research project D.Net organised three panel discussions titled “Sharing Findings of Infomediaries: Brokers of Public Access” with infomediaries, users and policymakers to share the research findings on 9th May, 21st May and 1st June, 2011. First two panels were organized at D.Net and the third panel for policymakers was organised at BRAC Centre Inn.

Mr. Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury moderated the panel. He congratulated D.Net and all associates of this study to represent Bangladesh in global ICT research forum. Dr. Ananya Raihan presented the study findings. All panelists delivered their opinion and suggestions to the research team. Dr. Raihan said that we want to include the findings in the policy to improve the situation. The policy should be country owned. He also requested participants to send case study (both negative and positive) for the final report.

D.Net revised Maternity and Paternity leave policy as per GoB policy

D.Net has revised its Maternity and Paternity Leave Policy as per the new policy of Bangladesh Government. From May 01, 2011 D.Net staff will avail Maternity leave for six months and Paternity leave for 15 days.

D.Net organised web-casting of National Budget session

D.Net organised a National Budget web-casting from one of its portals "bdresearch.org" on June 09, when the Honorable Finance Minister started to declare the National budget 2011-12. The prime objective of this initiative was to promulgate the key issues of National Budget to the general audience.



Detail budget is available on bdrsearch website

It is to be mention that since 2004 D.Net regularly organized this budget web-casting. To read all commentaries please visit <http://www.bdrsearch.org/budget112>.

Celebration of Pohela Boishakh at D.Net



D.Net family at the celebration of Bengali New year

Like every year D.Net family celebrated Pohela Boishakh, the Bengali New year 1418 on April 16, 2011 at D.Net premises. On the occasion D.Net conference room has been decorated colorfully with banners and flowers. D.Net arranged a cultural programme where all members enthusiastically took part. All former and current members of D.Net family were present at the occasion. At the end all guests were entertained with various kinds of delicious Bengali food and drinks.

Workshop on 'D.Net's Five Year Plan & Communication Strategy' held



Mr. Murali Shanmugavelan is at his session in Communication strategy development workshop

D.Net has organised an workshop to finalise its next five year plan and communication strategy during 11-12 May 2011 at CAMPE auditorium. The workshop was moderated by Mr. Murali Shanmugavelan, visiting fellow, UK. D.Net's staffs, officials and several members of governing body participated in this workshop.

Dr. Shah Md. Ahsan Habib, Member, Governing Body gave welcome speech where he congratulated

D.Nets staff and Management to organise such workshop to prepare next five year plan and communication strategy. In his introduction speech Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director D.Net explained the background of organising such workshop and expects that the workshop will ends up with a tangible strategy plan for next five years.

This two day long workshop ended with group presentation by D.Net Staffs.

D.Net launched the 1st Smart Class Room and Computer Lab in Bangladesh



Architect Yeafesh Osman, Honourable State Minister, MoSICT is giving his speech on the occasion

D.Net launched the 1st Smart Room and Computer Lab on June 26, 2011 at Alhaj Jamal Uddin Adorsho High School, Dhamrai under Government Private Initiatives on Information Technology Enhanced Education-A Pilot Programme jointly implemented by Ministry of Science and ICT, D.Net and Volunteers Association for Bangladesh, New Jersey (VAB-NJ).

Honourable State Minister Architect Yeafesh Osman, Ministry of Science and ICT, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh was present as Chief Guest at the occasion. Among other distinguish guests Local MP Mr. Benjir Ahmed; Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, D.Net; Mr. Munir Hasan, Consultant, MOSICT; Mr. Abul Kalam Azad & Mr. Tarek Barkutullah of Bangladesh Computer Council; Mr. Ajoy Kumar Bose, Coordinator, GPIE programme & Alhaj Mr. Jamal Uddin; Founder Chairperson of the school were present.

Eminent personalities spent time with children at summer class

In association with Gunijan programme, Kite Banglaesh introduced a special session at their summer class where students can meet the eminent personalities of Bangladesh. These sessions were held in June, 2011 with scheduled classes. Several Ginijans such as dancer Shibly Mohammad, Painter Rafiqun Nabi and Sculptor Ferdousi Priovashini were presented at these sessions. Both the eminent personalities and students enjoyed their time together at summer class.



Painter Rafiqun Nabi with the students of summer class

These activities with summer class is fulfilling one of the significant objective of Gunijan programme by creating opportunities to meeting Gunijans and to be inspired more.



Development Research Network

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