

D.Net celebrated it's 9th Anniversary



Celebration of 9th Anniversary



Anniversary Cake



D.Net's ED during his speech



D.Net Staff at the occasion

D.Net celebrated its 9th Anniversary on January 13, 2010 with all staffs and their family members. From its very inception, with active and sincere cooperation of all its member and well wisher, D.Net was able to establish its unique position in the research and development landscape of Bangladesh. On this auspicious occasion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of our current and former staff along with our well wishers.

D.Net currently works under six thematic areas: access to information and knowledge, business competitiveness for economic growth, governance and human rights, human capacity building, institutional capacity building and economic and development policy research.

Establishing D.Net as a premier research institution, as stated in our "Mission Statement" is a long journey. As we work with special focus on "access to information", D.Net's "Pallitathya" programme can probably take some credit in promoting the importance of ICT-based information and knowledge system for the poor and marginalized people. Initiatives like Bangladesh Online Research Network (www.bdresearch.org.bd) are engaged in knowledge intermediation since its inception.

The Pioneer programme of D.Net named Computer Literacy Program (CLP) received The Manthan Award South Asia 2009 under e-Education category for empowering students and teachers in Bangladesh through ICT and Computer education. Gunijan, an initiative of D.Net, has received special mention award of World Summit Award (WSA) 2009. The largest Bangla language livelihood content based Jeeon-IKB (www.jeeon.com.bd) received The Manthan Award South Asia 2008 under e-Content for

Development category. The concept of info-lady "Moni" received recognition in 2005 during World Summit on Information Society in Tunisia with Global Gender and ICT Award 2005.

D.Net for the first time in the country unmasked its organisational information in accordance to Right to Information Act 2009. In this regard, a separate link named "Your Right to Know" has been created at "www.dnet.org.bd" to ease the navigation process. D.Net has appointed a full time "Information Officer", who is responsible for providing information to the stakeholders, as stipulated in the law. D.Net published its report on "Socially Responsible Practices" at website in relation to its working partners.

D.Net is trying to become a social enterprise and has promoted ventures named "Multimedia Content and Communications Ltd" and "Fair Price (Pvt) Ltd" which will carry forward initiatives on a sustainable basis. These types of initiative are targeted towards reducing dependence on external resources.

D.Net is a young team, and we believe in the power of youth to make change in our society. In the journey towards achieving our vision, we recognize all individuals and institutions who believed in us and extended their intellectual, financial and volunteering support. We would like to join our hands in building a knowledge-based, secular, self-respectful modern Bangladesh. We would like to get all of you sometimes as a co-worker, sometimes as a patron, adviser, promoter, and sometimes as a partner. We also welcome critical review of any of our activities.

We look forward to your continuous encouragement. ■

Launching of book stall at Amor Ekushe Book Fair



Prof. Rehman Sobhan is inaugurating D.Net's Stall at Book Fair

With the objective to promote and disseminate ICT4D content in Bangla language, D.Net participated in the month long Amor Ekushe Gronthomela 2010. This fair was organised in the Bangla Academy premises.

D.Net organised launching programme of its book stall on February 4, 2010. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) inaugurated the bookstall of D.Net. All the staffs of D.Net and CPD attended the programme. D.Net's participation at the Ekushe Book Fair received a lot of publicity and coverage by the media.

This year D.Net brought some exciting publication at the fair. In the first week, D.Net published a Research Paper titled "e-Waste: A Growing Concern for ICT-based Growth and Development A First Cut Analysis", by Dr Sarwar Uddin Ahmed. Later three publications under D.Nets E-Book series came. Among them Gender Unnoyon Kosh edited by eminent Writer Selina Hossain created huge interest among the readers. We hope D.Net can publish various publications in future to preserve and disseminate ICT4D related knowledge to others. ■

Celebration of 100th Women's Day at D.Net



D.Net staff at Women's Day programme

International Women's Day has been observed annually since 1910 when an international conference of women in Copenhagen decided that a day should be marked to press for equal rights for women. The theme of this year was "Equal rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All."

To celebrate the 100th Women's Day D.Net staff has organised a film show and open discussion on "Women Right: Where we stand now?" on 8th March at D.Net premises. All staff and management were present on the occasion. Three short movie on Back ground of women's day and women life in international and Bangladesh perspective had been showed in the occasion. After the film show all staffs took part in the open discussion. This occasion created opportunity for the staffs to share their thoughts about women right, human rights and violence against women. ■

D.Net and Citi Launched Second Citi Financial IT Case Competition at National Press Club

D.Net & Citi launched the Second Citi Financial IT Case Competition (CFICC), through a press conference held at National Press Club on March 21, 2010. The competition was formally inaugurated today by Mr. Mahmud Hasan, Programme Director, D.Net and Abrar A. Anwar, Managing Director and Head, Bangladesh Global Corporate and Commercial Bank, Citibank, N.A.

This competition is the first of its kind in Bangladesh and was first launched in 2009, in which 54 institutions/universities took part and in the end University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) became the champion, winning US \$ 5,000.



Press conference of 2nd Citi Financial IT Case Completion

The competition aims to provide an opportunity for young and talented minds from different public and private universities to compete in the development of unique software and information system solutions for the financial sector in Bangladesh and nurture future leaders of the country. It helps students improve their knowledge on the use/application of technology within the financial sector. Each team will consist of 5 team members. 4 senior level university students can form a team for the competition which will include 2 students from business and 2 from IT. In each team one faculty member either from Business or IT will play the role of Project Manager. Each team will be working on the same case till the end.

The '2nd Citi Financial IT Case Competition' will consist of a preliminary screening round, semifinal round and a gala/final round. At the end of the final round the top three teams will be awarded US\$ 5,000, US\$ 2,000 and US\$ 1,000 respectively. Bangladesh Open Source Network (BDOSN) has joined this program in as partner. ■

Dipak Kamal Memorial Lecture 2010 on “Climate Change: South West Bangladesh Perspective” held at Khulna

Amader Gram, BDRResearch.org one of the Programme of D.Net and Research Initiative for Participatory Action (RIPA) organised the first Dipak Kamal Memorial Lecture 2010. Dipak Kamal, was the Governing Body Member and Founder Member of D.Net. In every year, Dipak Kamal Memorial Lecture 2010 will be held in memorial of distinguished Marine Scientist and Late Professor Dipak Kamal, University of Khulna.



Dipak Kalal Memorial lecture at Khulna

First lecture was held at 6 pm on January 26, 2010 at Hotel Royal, Khulna. This initiative was organised as part of Knowledge Fair of Amader Gram. “Climate Change: South West Bangladesh Perspective” was the first issue of lecture. Distinguished Environment Scientist Professor Dr. Dilip Kumar Datta, University of Khulna delivered the memorial lecture. Honourable Meyor Mr Talukdar Abdul Khalek of Khulna City Corporation attended the programme as Chief Guest. Vice Chancellor Dr. Md Saifuddin Shah, University of Khulna chaired the programme. ■

D.Net observed International Mother Language Day



D.Net family at Provat Feri

As the previous year, this year D.Net also observed International Mother Language Day with respect and gratitude to the language martyr. D.Net took part at the procession on February 21 which started from Nilkhet at 7am. All member of D.Net family joined the procession. The procession ended by placing garland at the National Shahid Minar. Later all staffs visited D.Net stall at Book Fair. ■

Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) Adaptation Workshop

D.Net organised a two day workshop on GEM (Gender Evaluation Methodology) Adaptation on 13-14 February, 2010 at D.Net under Enhancing Professional Skill Through Training Programme.



Participants of GEM Adaptation Workshop

Objective of the workshop was to help participant for adapting GEM by giving practical exercises, showing the application of GEM’s analysis and framework, gender and evaluation principles and values in developing and finalising their evaluation plans for better out come of their projects.



Session of GEM Adaptation Workshop

Mr. Shaheen Rahman, Gender Consultant and Development Communication Expert; Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, D.Net; Mr. Mahmud Hasan, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Bangladesh Telecentre Network (BTN) and Ms. Fatema Begum Labony, Research Associate, D.Net has facilitated the workshop. Mr. Rahman introduced the participants with gender and development issues. Others introduced with Gender Evaluation Methodology and facilitated to understand the seven steps of methodology.

The Association for Progressive Communications Women’s Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) developed GEM to facilitate the process of learning about using information and communication technologies (ICTs) for gender equality.

Participants were from various institutions like Institute for Environment & Development; Gender Justice & Diversity Section, BRAC; ICDDR; D.Net Shushilan; Naripokkho; ActionAid Bangladesh; CAMPE; Humanity Watch Foundation; Shakkhor Environment & Education Development Society; WaterAid Bangladesh; Bangladesh Telecentre Network (BTN); Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Nagorik Uddyog. ■

Launching Ceremony of e-Content and ICT for Development Award 2010

Ministry of Science and ICT, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and D.Net organised a launching ceremony of e-Content and ICT for Development Award 2010 on Thursday 21 January, 2010 at 11 am at Bangladesh Computer Council, Agargaon, Dhaka.



Launching ceremony of E-Content & ICT4D Award

Architect Yeafesh Osman, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh launched the ceremony.

The Daily Star and Prothom Alo is the organising partner of the programme. Channel i and Radio abc is the media partner. Knowledge partner is Digital Empowerment Foundation, India and Global Partner is World Summit Award, Austria. Online partner Computer Jagat bdjobs.com has extended their hand as sponsor.

The first session was seminar on "e-Content for Development: Bangladesh Perspective" and second session was the Launching of the "e-Content and ICT for Development Award 2010".

At the first session Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, D.Net delivered the welcome speech and discussed about the event. Mr. Munir Hasan, Consultant, Access to Information Programme, Ministry of Science and ICT presented his key note presentation on ICT for Development and e-Content Massage.

Mr. Reza Salim, Director, Amader Gram expressed importance to identify about the content of ICT. He said that ring tone or entertainment content of mobile should be

educational and awareness building text, that will be more effective.

Ms. Suparna Roy, Coordinator (livelihood Content), A2I programme at Prime Minister's Office explained about their content development with mother language related experience. She wanted help from all.

Mr. Enamul Kabir, Secretary, Bangladesh Computer Council welcome the Bangla content but he noted that it faces many problems in different media. He gave importance to solve the problem for easy communication.

At the second session Dr. Ananya Raihan explained the continuous steps of the contest and the way of participating in the contest.

Architect Yeafesh Osman said that "Technology should be for the people of the country and should be useful in own language. After participation in this contest Bangladesh can attend the World Summit Award as a proud contestant and will receive the Award. Bangladeshis will be successful in the world." He also wished success of the event.



Architect Yeafesh Osman unveiled the logo of E-Content & ICT4D Award

Later architect Yeafesh Osman launch the e-Content and ICT for Development Award 2010 and unveiled the logo of the Award and the crest.

Mr Mahfuzur Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Computer Council delivered the concluding remarks. For detail please visit www.eaward.org.bd. ■



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