

D.Net News

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Programs



অবলম্বন

গুণীভবন

আমাদের প্রেরনার ঠিকানা



টেলিভিশন



পল্লীতথ্যা

www.pallitathya.org
www.gunijan.org
www.abolombon.org
www.bdresearch.org

Editorial

The journey began in January 2001. A group of young professionals met to discuss how information and communication technology (ICT) can be integrated into the economic development process of Bangladesh and beyond her boundary. The outcome of the meeting was a decision to build a dedicated institution for research on, inter alia, mainstreaming ICT in poverty alleviation and economic growth. Thus, D.Net was registered (Reg.No.-1918) as a research institution under the Societies Act XXI of 1860 with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bangladesh. During its short journey D.Net was able to materialize the dream to initiate various research activities achieving the vision.

D.Net functions as an agency for undertaking and promoting research on national development and poverty alleviation through use of ICTs. Thus, it works of integrating ICTs in area of agriculture, health, education, human rights, employment, non agricultural activities, disaster management, trade, migration, environment, awareness, SMEs, business development and capacity building. In this endeavour, D.Net is in a process of developing business models for ICT carried services for livelihood improvement both in urban and rural areas. Currently, D.Net works for creating common knowledge resource pool.

D.Net believes that information is an essential economic resource and works for achieving rights to information and the ultimate aim is to improve access to information by all. D.Net also believes in multi-stakeholder partnership and emphasizes on collaboration for achieving common development goals.

D.Net is going to celebrate five years of its incorporation in January, 2006. As the activities of the organisation gathers momentum and interest of the stakeholders increases on D.Net's activities, the management decided to publish quarterly bulletin titled "D.News". The bulletin will highlight D.Net's activities during a quarter and will also publish achievements and success of ICT research and advocacy institutions at home and abroad.

We welcome your opinion and feedback on D.Net's activities and reporting. D.Net believes that mainstreaming ICTs in the development process is a Herculean task and not possible to achieve by a single organisation. We are open to collaborate with like minded institutions for accelerating and multiplication of good practices. ■

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CLP

Vision of D.Net

Poverty free world where knowledge plays its designated role in participation of all stake holders for creation of wealth and its proper distribution.

ICT 4 HRD

Computer Literacy Programme

D.Net kicked off the first training of the teachers for Computer Literacy Programme (CLP) on January 29, 2005. The trained teachers will provide training to the student from class VI to class XII in 20 selected rural educational institutions across the country. The



programme aims to promote knowledge and usage of computers among the underprivileged youths in rural Bangladesh and thus play a role in reducing digital divide in Bangladesh. The programme, titled "Computer Literacy Programme" was initiated by Voluntary Associations for Bangladesh (VAB), New Jersey, USA, an organisation of non-resident Banglaeashi, working for making a tangible contribution in the economic development of Bangladesh. D.Net is the implementation partner of the VAB. Under the programme an

NRB provides financial support to set up a computer learning centre (CLC) in an educational institution of her/his choice in Bangladesh. D.Net has developed curricula and prepared learning tools for providing training to the teachers of the selected schools and for using in classes. D.Net is now training the teachers and will set up CLCs in the educational institutions. For one year, D.Net will provide all technical support to the CLCs. The local educational institutions provide classrooms, furniture and management support. Each teacher receives an honorarium for giving extra time to the students. D.Net and VAB plan to start advanced training for the local youth which may generate income for the trained graduates. ■

From Research Desk

Pallitathya Help Line generates interest among rural people

The Pallitathya Help Line has become popular among the villagers in four villages of Magura, Jhinaidah, Bagerhat and Nilphamari. The Help line project was lunched in August, 2004 under a Small and Seed Grant of Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP). Under the project a mobile phone lady in each village goes door to door and the information seekers, particularly women, call to the D.Net's Help Desk. A villager can ask question about problem of health, agriculture production, education, legal and human rights etc. A comprehensive database of service providers have been developed for answering questions of the villagers and the answers are provided by the subject matter specialists.

The project formally ends on March 31, 2005. The villagers want continuation of the programme as they started to receive benefit from such kind of information services. D.Net plans to integrate the Help Line into its "Pallitathya" programme. ■

Agreement signed with Manusher Jonno

D.Net has signed an agreement with Manusher Jonno to start a research project titled "Abolombon- Empowering People through Improved Access to Information on Governance and Human Rights" on March 9, 2005. Dr. Ananya Raihan signed the agreement on behalf of D.Net and Ms. Shaheen Anam, Team Leader of Manusher Jonno, signed on Manusher Jonno's behalf. The project is designed to improve access to legal information on local governance and human rights issues for rural people using various ICT channels. Under this project a Bangla website (www.abolombon.org) will be developed on legal and human rights issues with practical information for beneficiaries and two mobile-phone based legal help line service will be established for providing immediate real time information to the victims of human rights violation. These mobile ladies will visit household of the villages for facilitating the rural people especially rural women to call to the Help Desk at D.Net and thus consult with the legal experts for advice. The project will start from March 2005 and continue for 18 months. ■

Agreement signed with Research Initiative, Bangladesh

D.Net has signed an agreement with Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB) to start a research project titled "Access to Information for Improvement of Rural Livelihood". Dr. Ananya Raihan signed the agreement on behalf of the D.Net and Dr. Shamsul Bari, Chairman of RIB signed it on RIB's behalf. The project has been undertaken under the umbrella research programme "Pallithaya" for improvement of rural livelihood through ICT-carried information services. Under the project livelihood content in agriculture and health will be developed. One information centre will be established in the North Bengal for dissemination of livelihood information through information intermediary. Furthermore, one mobile phone lady will go door to door in villages for facilitating the rural people, particularly rural

women to make call at D.Net's Help Desk. The project aims to develop a replicable business model for such information delivery channel. The project will start from March 2005 and will continue for 18 months. ■



WSIS South Asia Consultation January 5-7, 2005

South Asian regional consultation on the WSIS was held during January 5 – 7, 2005 at Dhaka, Bangladesh. D.Net actively participated in the consultation meeting. The meeting was organised by Bangladesh Friendship Education Society (BFES) in collaboration with OneWorld South Asia (OWSA) and Association on Progressive Communications (APC). Dr. Ananya Raihan, Mr. Ajoy Kumar Bose, Mr. Mridul Chowdhury and Mr. Mahmud Hasan participated in the workshop. Mridul Chowdhury, Executive Director (a.i.) chaired a session. ■

D.Net in the government delegation to PrepCom 2 February 17-25, 2005

Two members from D.Net attended the Second Preparatory Committee (PrepCom2) meeting for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva from 17-25 February 2005. The purpose of the participation was to contribute to the WSIS preparatory process.

Mr. Mridul Chowdhury, Executive Director (a.i.) of D.Net participated in the meeting as a member of Bangladesh government delegation. A number of proposals made by Mr. Mridul Chowdhury were included in the official document on financing ICT4D, agreed upon by the country delegations. Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Chairman of D.Net participated as a civil society representative and contributed in different fora. ■

Retrospectives

Pallitathya nominated as the best web site



www.Pallitathya.org was nominated as the best ICT product from Bangladesh in e-Inclusion division and was presented for World Summit Award (WSA) held in Geneva in December 2004. The competition was held as a part of World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) held in December 10 – 12, 2004 in Geneva. ■

Integration of E-Governance Training

In July 2004 D.Net offered a dedicated training to the government officials on e-governance and e-commerce. D.Net also published a Handbook on Implementing e-Governance with Basic introduction to e-Commerce. The training programme and the handbook were sponsored by Academy of Planning and Development (APD). Mridul Chowdhury, Deputy Director, D.Net, coordinated the training. In January, 2006 the training programme has been integrated into regular training programme of the APD. ■

Participation in SoftExpo 2004 November 25-29, 2004

For the first time SoftExpo 2004 was held in Bangladesh during November 25-29, 2004. It was organised by Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS). Along with exhibition of software products thematic discussions were held. D.Net was appointed as official rapporteur of the event. Besides, Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Chairman, presented a keynote paper in one of the sessions titled “E-Commerce: Financial Regulation and Legal Issues in Bangladesh”.

Achievements

Dr. Ananya Raihan received Ashoka Fellowship

Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Chairman of D.Net formally received the Ashoka Fellowship in an awarding ceremony in Kolkata held during February 11-13, 2005. The ceremony was organised by the Ashoka – the Change Makers in the chamber building. Total 35 social entrepreneurs received the award this time from the Asia-Pacific region. The idea of Pallitathya was discussed and it generated interest among the other participants. The duration of fellowship is three years. “This fellowship will inspire me to go further in the right way”, expressed Dr. Raihan after receiving the award. ■

Picnic@ Elenga

D.Net’s staffs, members of the governing body and their family members enjoyed a picnic at Elenga Resort in Tangail on 24 December 2004. It was a refreshing experience for all D.Net members. ■

