Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum

Summary Report On the Discussion Session Held On
Thursday, 25 August, 2011
1. BANGLADESH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM(BIGF)

Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) is a multi-stakeholder organization aimed to illuminate issues and create ideas on internet usage in Bangladesh in association with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF). This domestic independent forum has engaged civil society, organizations, government, corporate sectors, technical sectors, media and academia to create partnerships, coalitions and dialogues that demonstrate best practices and help us to move the policy forward. BIGF members have attended 4th IGF in Sharm EL Sheikh, Egypt in 2009, 5th IGF in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2010 and the First Asia-Pacific Regional IGF (APrIGF) in Hong Kong on 14-17th June, 2010. Every year BIGF will arrange consultation regarding IGF in Bangladesh.

The objectives of BIGF is to support the establishment of a national forum of multi-stakeholder that is specialized in internet governance issues; to promote the development of internet governance as a recognized, interdisciplinary field of study, dialogue and research; to link theoretical and applied research and policy on internet governance; and to facilitate informed dialogue on policy issues and related matters between internet governance stakeholders (Government, private sector, civil society, media and academia).

2. BIGF MEETING:

The BIGF meeting was held in Engineering Institute Conference Hall Dhaka Bangladesh on Thursday 25, August 2011. It was planned so that it would begin just before the 6th meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in Nairobi, Kenya.

The BIGF brought together some senior Government and private sector representatives as well as the technical and academic community to exchange ideas and shape the future of Internet governance in Bangladesh.

Among the wide-ranging topics under discussion was the accessibility to the Internet, Internet Governance for Development (IG4D), emerging issues, managing critical internet resources, security, openness, privacy.

Three articles were presented in the meeting by Dr. Mahfuz Ashraf, Professor, Department of Management Information Systems, Dhaka University, Tarik M. Barkatullah, Senior Systems analyst, Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), Lt. Cornel Rakibul Hasan, Director, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

A general discussion took place afterwards covering usages of Internet in Bangladesh, Cyber Security issues and the impact of social networks, Pv6 in Bangladesh, Internet domain matters and Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) issues, and internet service quality in Bangladesh and law and order situation of Bangladesh regarding Internet. Later discussants chalked out the role of Bangladesh in the forthcoming IGF to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in September later this year.
3. DISCUSSIONS:

At the meeting, Hasanul Haq Inu, the Honorable Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication, was present as chief guest and Major General Zia Ahmed, psc (Retd.), the Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, was present as special guest. Under the moderation of Dr. Akram H. Chowdhury, Honorable MP, and Chairperson, Center for e-Parliament Research, three articles written by Dr. Md. Mahfuz Ashraf, Department of Management Information Systems Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka, Mr. Tarique M Barkatullah, Senior Systems Analyst, Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), and Lieutenant Colonel Rakibul Hassan, the director of BTRC, were presented at the event.
Hasanul Haq Inu, the Honorable MP and the Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication as the chief guest said:

- “Bangladesh government has no official participation in events like Internet Governance Forum to be held in Nairobi. However, Bangladesh was unofficially represented in this kind of conference several times by some enthusiasts. Our country will be benefited, if we can officially participate in this kind of conference.”
- “There was an acute shortage of Bangla (language) content in Internet. If adequate content in Bangla language cannot be arranged and ensured, then Internet will not be embraced by the common mass.”

He also stressed on creating legislations without any delay on Data Protection ACT and Data Privacy Act. He called on the government to take necessary steps to send official delegations at ICANN and IGF. He informed that from 2012, the World will move towards IPv6 technology. So, if we do not think about it from now then at one stage, we suffer the risk of getting isolated from the rest of the world.

On that meeting, Dr. Md. Mahfuz Ashraf, Lecturer, Department of Management Information Systems, University of Dhaka presented key note paper. He brought out the real scenario of uses of Internet in Bangladesh. He emphasized on:

- The use of Internet in our country and the valuable effect that Internet will have on our society. He defined Internet access as information access and information that we get from the Internet surely helps to improve our livelihood standard. However for this improvement of live standard, government should develop strategy, proper support, issue address, support system and develop the present condition of the Internet governance to get the fruit of Internet uses.
- Use of Internet in government or e-Goverence provides citizens with more and more direct access to information regarding the business, social, national, economic and so on of the citizen concern. E-governance increases the accountability of the government and makes the work more and more transparent. E-governance can reduce the corruption in this sense that it always leaves a trace of the crime.
- Privacy is a burning issue in our country as till now there is no privacy law on the use of Internet and Data which makes us concern in our everyday life.
- Government should work for the policy development of Internet rather than train up the people to use Internet as if people understand the benefit of the use of Internet than they simply can train up themselves.

He stated some recommendations which the BIGF acknowledges the ambitions of the programme for Digital Bangladesh and its commitment to contributing to its goals. He included:

- BIGF’s activities will include technical skills for handling the technology, broadcasting skills for developing programming material.
• Train key stakeholders who are directly concerned with Internet Governance especially for the alleviation of Digital Divide. Implement projects that deploy Internet in rural-urban settings for the purpose of addressing the good governance.
• Research the new knowledge that will be required to ensure Internet achieve their fullest contribution within the National context. This may include fund-raising, Project design, Implementation and evaluation, Research collaboration, Knowledge dissemination, Advocacy and policy advice.

Tarik M Barkutullah from Bangladesh Computer Council presented Internet Governance in Bangladesh Perspective. His discussion focused at:

• Dream to realize a democratic system in Bangladesh
• Where people choose their government freely
• Get service without hassle
• Enjoy freedom from fear and intolerance, live with dignity
• Every citizen is assured of social justice, environmental protection, human right and equal opportunities.
• The rule of law and good governance flourish
• Leading to a liberal, progressive and democratic welfare state.

He also informed us about some achievement made by the Bangladesh:

• According to United Nations E-Government survey 2008 Bangladesh was ranked 142 and in 2010 Bangladesh was ranked as 134.
• According to Networked Readiness Index (NRI) 2008-2009 Bangladesh was placed at 130 and in 2009-2010 Bangladesh was placed at 118.
• According to Gatner report published in 2010 Bangladesh has included within top 30 destinations for outsourcing.
• Bangladeshi ICT company Millennium information system ranked 9th for its Islamic Banking Software by Gatner.
• Bangladeshi Software Company TigerIT is ranked in the top 3 in the NIST AFIS Benchmark battle.
• E-Asia an international event to show case e-Service will be held in Dhaka at Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka from December 13, 2011.
• Digital Innovation Fair was started at 2010.
• Bangladesh government along with the help of some of other private organization is working to set up Smart Class Room in rural Bangladesh.

At the last part of his discussion, he revealed the expectation from IGF 2011:

• Use of ICT as a useful tool for development in wide spectrum of socio-economic activity.
• Digitization of land record, judiciary and health care, disaster management with local language content.
• Cooperate towards development of Human Resource Management.
• Common resource pool to prevent cyber crime.
Lieutenant Colonel Rakibul Hasan of BTRC presented the topic **The Way forward Bangladesh & .bd domain.** He stated two major topics that can play a vital role in e-governance which are:

- **Bangla Domain:** Bangladesh has introduced the Bengali domain that is .bd through which an organization can use Bengali as its website name.
- **IANA (Internet Assigned Number Authority):** This Authority is responsible for the management of the zone, browse, maintain the domain and formulate the policy, procedure & guide the government. It works as a regulating authority of the internet.
- **Govt. Advisory Committee (GAC):** They just watch the present condition of the use of internet and take steps to improve the conditions and introduce government rule & works as a buffer between Govt. & ICANN.

Lt. Col. Rakibul Hasan recommended some initiatives for the government to implement .bd domain management. These are:

- Automated purchase of domain name, Domain can be made free for making it more popular, Encourage people to use .bd domain because it will keep our money in our own country, Local hosting and domain management system should be made more and more efficient & effective, Stability in domain management.

**Photo 2: Participants in the open session**

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### 4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

**Usages of Internet:**
The discussion on this topic was emphasized on how we are going to ensure the right use of internet in our country and protect our youth from harmful information. As we have very limited resource, proper distribution of all facilities is a very important issue here. It has also been mentioned that giving everyone access to internet only will not bring change but construction of an effective database and proving everyone with due infrastructural support are also important to ensure development.

**E governance:**
Discussion on this part focused on how internet can be useful to provide necessary information to citizens to ensure accountability of govt. which will eventually lead us to good and accountable governance. Bangladesh is already enjoying a wide-spread usage of internet in national, organizational and community level, so it will not be a tough issue for us dealing with corruption. But only giving people access to information will not bring good governance with it arrangements for awareness campaigns and laws are needed to spread awareness among people, to change their perspective and to control them.

**Cyber protection: Security and privacy:**
Privacy is a very important social issue. To ensure it discussants agreed on making Privacy Act to protect privacy of individuals’ data and control inappropriate content from internet. Different internet and mobile service providing companies should take into account the impact of the human rights protection, rights on consumer protection. Security on the other hand is a technical consideration. For this they agreed on the need of setting some principles. For this a five layer policy was recommended to ensure security of individuals, children, women, company and state. A balance between managing security risks and the free flow of information was
important. Both civil and criminal sanctions should be considered. And they emphasized on a strong and effective regulatory body to look after this security issue. And finally, the need of improved up-dated technology to advance consumer interests was discussed.

Transaction to IPv6:
This discussion centered on how the transition to IPv6 would not mean the immediate demise of IPv4 though it was strongly recommended to be ready for the next generation of internet. But even after this transaction IPv4 and IPv6 will co-exist and run simultaneously for sometimes. As to ensure uninterrupted internet service transaction to IPv6 is a must it is necessary to spread awareness about this change. An active Government, providing with incentives to help this process was also expected.

Multi lingual domain & bangle domain:
Discussion on this topic concentrated on increasing the popularity of the top level bangle domain in our country. To build awareness and convincing Bangladeshi people to use domestic domain, the discussant suggested effective campaign programs. They also ensured that they have a plan to work with IANA and Australian Government to improve the service quality of our domain. Along with this they informed us that a new version of mobile key pad has been already developed for typing bangle fonts easily.

Service Improvement:
This discussion dealt with the policy issues concerning internet service in Bangladesh. Discussants urged on making a broadband policy, security policy immediately to improve internet service in Bangladesh. They also mentioned the importance of technical support to ensure uninterrupted service.

Internet for development:
Discussion on this topic focused on how Internet can facilitate development of Bangladesh. Suggestions arrived for a new up-to-date internet based Education system. To provide education in every corner of Bangladesh proposals had been made for making smart class rooms in remote areas. A database for land management is already under construction. Discussants recommended that to ensure full democratic practice and smart governance, government web sites need to be up dated. They also suggested on declaring any town “IT city” and develop it to be a role model for the rest of the country.

5. NAIROBI AND THE WAY FORWARD

The aim of this session was to cover two major issues – what will be our role in the UN IGF and the relationship between BIGF and UN IGF. The Sixth Annual IGF Meeting will be held in Nairobi, Kenya on 27-30 September 2011 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON). The
theme of the meeting is 'Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation'.

To address the main theme, BIGF also discussed about the followings-

- IG4D/ Internet Governance for Development
- Emerging Issues
- Managing critical Internet resources
- Security, Openness and Privacy
- Access and Diversity
- Taking stock and the way forward

6. MEETING SESSION of BIGF

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>10.30-10.45</td>
<td>Entrance of the Invitees</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.45-11.00</td>
<td>Welcome remarks and preliminary discussion about the objectives of the meeting by AHM Bazlur Rahman, CEO, BNNRC</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00-11.10</td>
<td>Keynote address by Dr. Akram H. Chowdhury, Honorable MP and Chairperson, Center for e-Parliament Research</td>
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| 11.10-11.30 | Plenary-1  
Access and Diversity: Can Access to Internet alone bring result?  
Governance: How far internet/ 'e' achieve good governance?  
Privacy: A missing link?  
Policy Advocacy of BIGF: Future agendas |
| 11.30-11.50 | Plenary-2  
Internet governance: Bangladesh Perspective  
Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh |
| 11.50-12.20 | Plenary-3  
IP-V6 in Bangladesh: The impact in business and communication |
| 12.20-12.30 | Tea Break |
| 12.30-14.00 | Interactive Discussion Session |
| 14.00-14.15 | Remarks of the meeting discussed by Major General Zia Ahmed, psc (Retd.) Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission. |
| 14.15-14.30 | Remarks of the discussion by H.E. Hasanul Haq Inu, MP Honorable Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee for Ministry of Post and Telecommunication |
| 14.30       | Closing of the meeting session.                                          |