

## **1<sup>st</sup> Workgroup Session of the A4AI-Bangladesh National Coalition**

**Organized by**

**Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)**

**and**

**Access to Information Programme (a2i), Bangladesh**

**09 July 2018, 0930 – 1300 hrs. | Conference Room, BCC, ICT Tower, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Agargaon, Dhaka.**

### **Concept Note and Program Agenda**

The first meeting of A4AI-Bangladesh Coalition, which took place in Dhaka at the Prime Minister's Office on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2017, initiated a process towards a multi-stakeholder based dialogue in policy-making and the regulatory work in Bangladesh. At the first forum in July identified the following four priorities:

- Developing of strategies for scaling-up public access points
- Efficient use of existing infrastructure, including that of spectrum resources for reaching the last mile
- Analysis of current taxation, tariff and fee regime to develop strategies for reduction of cost of access and services
- Evidence-based policy-making, derived from the analysis of data and research

Based on the first coalition meeting priorities, second meeting of the A4AI-Bangladesh coalition held on 28 March 2018 at the Prime Minister's Office, Dhaka. Through Enthusiastic multi-stakeholders' participation, presentation, interactive panel discussion and plenary sessions. Key priorities and action plan set forth are:

- A4AI-Bangladesh to outline and formulate effective broadband strategies engaging various multi-stakeholders from Bangladesh and International expertise within the next six months
- Focus on skill development as well as local content development so that the efforts of Digital Bangladesh will indeed help to enhance the quality of people's lives.
- Need for policy and regulatory efforts to turn the availability of broadband into a meaningful use.
- Prepare a clear roadmap of broadband development in Bangladesh for short-mid and long term milestone with activities and that of also developing an effective use and the scale-up of public access centres.

### **Expected Objective of Workgroup event on 9<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Regional consultation reports with recommendations from multi-stakeholders and survey analytics
- Broadband infrastructure road map of Bangladesh with identified gaps
- Review of various infrastructure mega projects undertaken, spectrum and deployment related policies with recommendations for amendments

- Review of digital spread and access to services, digital literacy skills with recommendations
- Review of Public Access Centres and their effectiveness and sustainability, with recommendations for expansion and scale-up
- A complete Strategy and Action Plan (with clear time bound targets) for Effective and Affordable Broadband in Bangladesh

**Planned Working Groups:**

Working Group Name	Key Areas To Cover
Workgroup-1	Importance of regulatory and institutional framework in order to measure need assessment and to reap the benefits of ICTs in Bangladesh
Workgroup-2	Identify core ingredients (such as wireless spectrum, fiber backhaul and backbone, rendering ICT services more affordable etc.) for increasing fixed or wireless broadband deployment
Workgroup-3	A clear vision and guiding strategy to support the development and coordination of affordable broadband plans for citizen-centric across Bangladesh