1st Workgroup Session of the A4AI-Bangladesh National Coalition

Organized by

Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) and
Access to Information Programme (a2i), Bangladesh


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 24th 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 9th 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:**

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