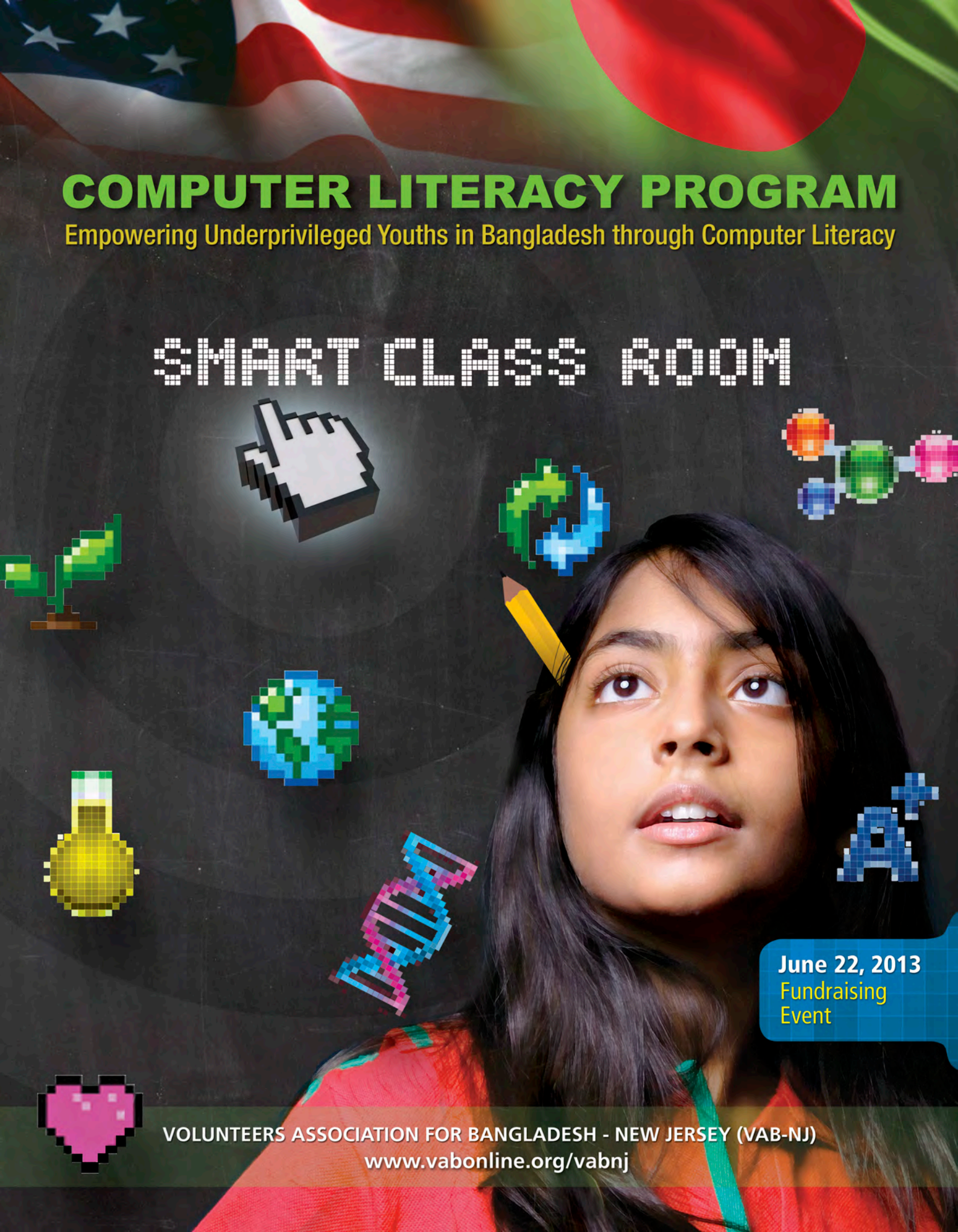
COMPUTER LITERACY PROGRAM

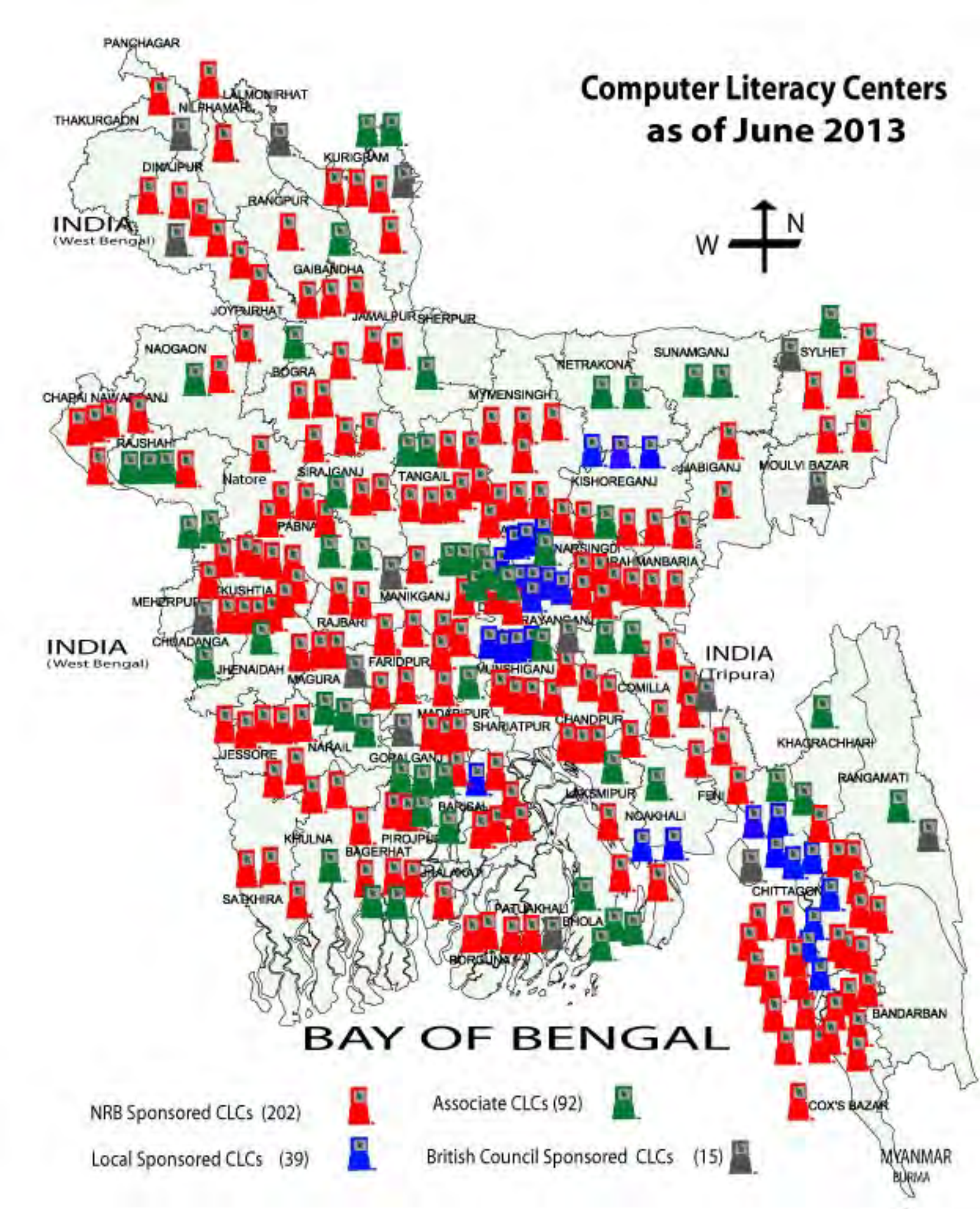
Empowering Underprivileged Youths in Bangladesh through Computer Literacy

SMART CLASS ROOM



June 22, 2013
Fundraising Event

VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION FOR BANGLADESH - NEW JERSEY (VAB-NJ)
www.vabonline.org/vabnj


Computer Literacy Centers
as of June 2013
PANCHAGAR
LALMONIRHAT
NILPHAMARI
THAKURGAON
DINAJPUR
KURIGRAM
RANGPUR
INDIA
(West Bengal)
GAIBANDHA
JOYPURHAT
JAMALPUR
SHERPUR
NAOGAON
BOGRA
NETRAKONA
SUNAMGANJ
SYLHET
MYMENSINGH
RAJSHAHI
Natore
SIRAJGANJ
TANGAIL
KISHOREGANJ
HABIGANJ
MOULVI BAZAR
PABNA
MANIKGANJ
MEHERPUR
KUSHTIA
RAJBARI
CHUADANGA
INDIA
(West Bengal)
FARIDPUR
MAGURA
JHENAIDAH
MUNSHIGANJ
INDIA
(Tripura)
COMILLA
MADARIPUR
SHARIATPUR
CHANDPUR
NARAIL
JESSORE
GOPALGANJ
KHAGRACHHARI
RANGAMATI
LAKSMIPUR
FENI
BARISAL
NOAKHALI
KHULNA
PIROJPUR
BAGERHAT
SATKHIRA
CHITTAGONG
PATUAKHALI
BHOLA
BANDARBAN
BAY OF BENGAL
COX'S BAZAR
MYANMAR
BURMA
NRB Sponsored CLCs (202)
Associate CLCs (92)
Local Sponsored CLCs (39)
British Council Sponsored CLCs (15)

Program for
CLP Annual Event
Saturday, June 22, 2013
Rutgers Cook Campus Center, 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

6:00 – 6:30 Guest Arrival, Registration, Social, Snacks

6:30 – 6:45 Welcome & Introduction

6:30 – 6:35 National Anthems, USA & Bangladesh
6:35 – 6:40 Welcome and Introduction
6:40 – 6:45 Video Animation on Computer Literacy Program

6:50 – 7:30 Speeches by Distinguished Guests

6:50 – 7:10 Mr. Reihan Salam
7:10 – 7:25 Dr. Shakil Ahmed
7:25 – 7:30 Dr. ANM Mostafa Khandaker, VAB

7:35 – 8:10 CLP Presentation

7:35 – 7:45 Video – "CLP & SCR: A new horizon in education"
7:45 – 8:00 CLP Today, presentation *by* Dr. Sayeed Hasan
8:00 – 8:05 Financial Report by Mr. Amzad Khan
8:05 – 8:15 Maintain Current Centers by Dr. Kurshid Hossain (Lucy)

8:15 – 8:45 Question and Answer Session – Conducted *by* Dr. Abdul Hai

8:45 – 9:00 High School Graduate Appreciation – Conducted *by* Mrs. Asma Kabir

(8:15 - 8:45 Overlapping Children's Pizza Dinner in Merle V Adams Room)

9:00 – 9:45 Dinner

9:45 – 10:05 Standup Comedy *by* Mr. Usama Siddiquee

10:05 – 10:10 Vote of Thanks *by* Dr. Esha Khoshnu

10:15 –10:50 *Sonar Gaon*, a musical by *Shoukhin* of NJ

11:00 Conclusion

Smart Class Rooms as of June 2013
W
N
PANCHAGAR
LALMONIRHAT
NILPHAMARI
THAKURGAON
DINAJPUR
KURIGRAM
RANGPUR
INDIA
(West Bengal)
GAIBANDHA
JOYPURHAT
JAMALPUR
SHERPUR
NAOGAON
BOGRA
NETRAKONA
SUNAMGANJ
SYLHET
CHAPAI NAWABGANJ
MYMENSINGH
RAJSHAHI
Natore
SIRAJGANJ
TANGAIL
KISHOREGANJ
HABIGANJ
MOULVI BAZAR
PABNA
GAZIPUR
NARSINGDI
BRAHMANBARIA
KUSHTIA
MEHERPUR
MANIKGANJ
DHAKA
NARAYANGANJ
RAJBARI
CHUADANGA
INDIA
(West Bengal)
JHENAIDAH
FARIDPUR
MUNSHIGANJ
INDIA
(Tripura)
MAGURA
COMILLA
MADARIPUR
SHARIATPUR
CHANDPUR
KHAGRACHHARI
JESSORE
NARAIL
GOPALGANJ
RANGAMATI
LAKSMIPUR
FENI
BARISAL
NOAKHALI
KHULNA
PIROJPUR
BAGERHAT
JHALAKATI
CHITTAGONG
SATKHIRA
PATUAKHALI
BHOLA
BARGUNA
BANDARBAN
BAY OF BENGAL
COX'S BAZAR
MYANMAR
BURMA
British Council Sponsored SCRs -50
Local Sponsored SCRs -13
NRB sponsored SCRs - 87

Computer Literacy Program 2013

Volunteers Association for Bangladesh - New Jersey

As we continue to add more computer literacy centers (CLCs), 348 by now, the accomplishment that crowns our achievements during 2010-2013 is the establishment of 150 Smart Class Rooms (SCRs) in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh under its Public Private Partnership initiative and British Council Bangladesh. In a SCR students learn English, Science, Geometry, and Geography using interactive CDs with animated color graphics on large screen monitors.

As of 2013, we have established 256 CLCs and 92 Associate Centers. In a CLC we provide, a minimum, of four computers, one printer and other accessories, complete hardware maintenance program and internet access where available and train two teachers. At an Associate Center we upgrade a pre-existing lab or center with computer hardware already in place by providing all the features of a CLC. As we reported last year, the cost of basic computer training per student now stands at less than $7 even after adjustment for inflation.

Back in 2004 when spread our concept, it may have met with skepticism or even ridicule. The pictures on this page and throughout this magazine wash all skepticisms away and show that we have a credible program. Over the years we have trained over 70,000 students, nearly half of them are female. In these short but immensely busy 9 years, we never wavered in our focus – "Empowering underprivileged youths in Bangladesh through Computer Literacy". We see the fruits of our efforts and your generosity.

As any dedicated voluntary program, we have our share of challenges. The other side of our phenomenal growth is that we now have to maintain over 300 CLCs. At current estimates, we need approximately $600 per CLC per year. We are torn between our aspirations of establishing newer centers and the need to maintain the existing centers. Our central message to all our donors and patrons is "Please be generous to help us maintain the wonderful and clearly beneficial centers that you helped establish. Let's keep these cornerstones of Bangladesh's digital future alive and make them stronger."

With your generous help we have successfully lighted candles of hopes in 56 of the 64 districts of Bangladesh. We dream of building a knowledge-based society in Bangladesh. Come, dream with us. With your support we can catch the star!

From virtual to real, through computers to prosperity, we will empower the underprivileged youths of Bangladesh to enter the realm of hope by crossing the digital divide

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Magazine cover by Ashraful Huq

We Laud the Worthy Cause of
The Computer Literacy Program

Compliments from:

Mohammad H. Zaman, M.D., FCCP

Rehana Zaman, M.D.

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Tonight's distinguished speakers

Reihan Morshed Salam *(pronounced /ˈraɪhɑːn səˈlɑːm/; born December 29, 1979) is a American political commentator, columnist and author. He is a columnist for The Daily and lead writer of The Agenda blog at National Review, as well as a policy adviser at e21 and a contributing editor at National Affairs. He has also appeared on a number of radio and television shows, including NPR's Morning Edition, Talk of the Nation, All Things Considered, and Tell Me More, HBO's Real Time with Bill Maher, NBC Universal's The Chris Matthews Show, WNYC's The Brian Lehrer Show, BBC's Newsnight, ABC's This Week, CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS, Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report", and American Public Media's Marketplace. Salam is also a frequent guest on the weekend political talk show Up with Chris Hayes on MSNBC and on the CNN show Erin Burnett OutFront.*

Shakil Ahmed *is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Princeton Alpha. Until February, 2013, he was the Global Head of Market Making at Citi and served on the Executive Committee of the Equities Division. Prior to that, he also served as the Global Head of Quantitative Strategies and sat on the management committee of Citi Alternative Investments. He joined Citi in early 2008 and left at the end of February, 2013, to form Princeton Alpha. Prior to joining Citi, Shakil spent fourteen years at Morgan Stanley in the Process Driven Trading group, the main proprietary trading business at the firm. For many of those years, he was head of the business. He had retired from day to day responsibilities in December, 2006 and served as a Senior Advisor to the firm until early 2008, when his former boss and then incoming CEO at Citi, Vikram Pandit, invited him to come to Citi. Shakil has a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Yale University, where his thesis was on parallel processing (1994). He also has M.S. and M.Phil. degrees in the same field from Yale. His undergraduate degree was from the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated early with high honors and high distinction in Computer Science. Shakil grew up in Vienna, Austria, where he attended the Vienna International School.*

Anm Mostafa Khandaker holds a Master's of Science (MS) in Pharmaceutical Administration and Regulatory Affairs from Long Island University (USA), and a MSS in Govt. & Politics from Jahangir Nager University. He worked in the research, training, and management position at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla, Bangladesh for 4 years. Prior to joining BARD, he served as a lecturer of Isphahani Residential College, Comilla. From the student life to present, he has been involved in many national & international charitable & community organizations, such as Rotary and Lions clubs, UOTC, VAB, JMC, JUAANA, etc. Mr. Khandaker has been serving in the US pharmaceutical industries for the last 24 years in the areas of quality, compliance, regulatory affairs and GMP training. He is an active member of the Executive Board of the Volunteers Association of Bangladesh (VAB), heading its Communication and Media Group.

Meghna's Adventures in InfoWorld

Swapan Kumar Gayen

Meghna used to look forward to Moona's occasional visits to Shimulpur. Moona is Jamuna's first cousin, and Jamuna is Meghna's best friend. Moona lives in Dhaka and attends Greenherald International School. Close in age, all of them attend the same grade in their respective schools. Although Meghna loves her beautiful little village, she realizes that big city dwellers consider it a backwater. Moona's visits and her impeccable narratives of her school, friends, as well as, sights and sounds of the country's capital used to be like breaths of fresh air from a distant land for Meghna. They used to have animated discussions on TV dramas they watched, novels they read, songs they loved, algebra they learned, and initial rounds of the math Olympiad. During one such visit, Moona excitedly announced her birthday gift – a personal computer. On and on she went about hardware, software, mouse, and Microsoft Word, Power Point and Excel programs. Meghna and Jamuna could only listen. Conversation between them became even more one sided during Moona's next visit when she started talking about web surfing, downloading, e-mailing and instant messaging. Soon Meghna started to dread Moona's visits.

One day Meghna's science teacher announced that an alumnus of the school sponsored establishment of a Computer Literacy Center (CLC) in the school. A room in the school was designated to be the *Computer Room*, which housed four personal computers, a printer, and other peripherals. The science and math teachers were sent to Dhaka for training.

Meghna was among the first batch of eight students to receive hands-on training in basic computer operation and programs. Meghna performed so well in the training phase that her computer teachers recruited her as a teaching assistant to help with instruction of the next batch. While that endowed her with a small stipend, what she appreciated most was access to the computers. Internet connection became available in the area and was established in their CLC. After much anticipation and trepidation, Meghna was finally able to interact with worldwide web.

Soon Meghna and her classmates found load shedding considerably reduced the time they could spend on computers. Encouraged by her teachers, Meghna sent an e-mail to the alumnus requesting a solar IPS. She was surprised to get a quick response and a solar IPS was soon added. The alumnus was happy with the progress of their CLC and sponsored a smart class room (SCR). Four other teachers received training in Dhaka. Shimulpur High School SCR was launched with a laptop, a large screen TV monitor with a dedicated solar IPS, and four educational CDs on general science, geometry, geography, and spoken English. The alumnus visited the school and brought several video courses on CDs, such as, *Understanding the Universe*, *Joy of Mathematics, Chaos, Foundation of Western Civilization, Great Scientific Ideas That Changed the World, Story of Human Language, Shakespeare's Tragedies, Origin of the Human Mind,* to name a few. Meghna and her classmates were amazed to see how some of the science concepts became much easier to understand when they observed the animations, videos and recorded experiments along with listening to lectures on those educational CDs. Meghna then organized an after school computer club to watch and work with those CDs.

Meghna was excited when her science teacher guided her along with four other classmates how to navigate the web, distinguish between genuine websites and sites that provide inaccurate, incomplete, or biased information and retrieve dependable and useful contents. They were entrusted with the task of identifying contents that could complement what they were learning in the physics course. While allowing them to spend more time online, he also cautioned them against its addictive and detrimental nature. Jamuna proposed starting an "Invitation to Dialogue" session in their computer club to discuss issues they find interesting.

One of the first issues they discussed was the online, interactive, distant learning mode that was proliferating in the elite universities of the United States. Paulash arrived in school one day, all excited. He just learned that a person of Bangladeshi origin runs a Khan Academy that Bill Gates uses to teach his

kids. Intrigued, all of them huddled around a PC in the computer lab and Google searched Khan Academy. The Internet connection was slow, their hearts were beating somewhat faster, but the website eventually came up with the slogan "Learn almost anything for free" and informed them that with "over 4200 hundred videos" and "hundreds of skill to practice" it was the mission of the Academy to help them to learn. Ever since they use the website whenever they have a chance to practice and enhance their skills set. Meghna has since paid several visits to the MIT website in search of contents to complement their physics course.

Moona's most recent visit was again as engaging and enjoyable for all three of them. With her own computer and access to Internet, Moona can spend more time social networking. Meghna could tell her more about the "coming of a tsunami in US higher education," and how Andrew Ng, the Stanford University professor and a co-founder of the interactive online education company, *Coursera*, could teach 100,000 students a semester in addition to the 400 he would normally teach in his traditional class! Meghna has overcome the *digital divide*, thanks to approximately $7/student investment in human resources that the Computer Literacy Program has made to make over 65,000 underprivileged students like her computer literate.

While the characters are fictional, the transformative potential of CLP presented is the CLP dream.
Swapan Kumar Gayen is a CLP volunteer and a professor of Physics at the City College of the City University of New York.

2004	VAB-NJ Launches Computer Literacy Program. Received Long Term Commitment from Khan Family Foundation.
2005	20 Computer Literacy Centers (CLCs) and 1,295 graduates.
2006	40 CLCs and 5,798 graduates
2007	60 CLCs and 9,570 graduates. Microsoft sponsored 13 CLICK Centers.
2008	100 CLCs and 15,826 graduates. CTEE introduced.
2009	120 CLCs and29,699 graduates. NABIC collaboration initiated.
2010	172 CLCs and 41,708 graduates. 100 Smart Class Rooms (SCRs) proposed to BD Government under PPP. Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh collaboration initiated.
2011	240 CLCs and 54,056 graduates. 1st SCR established.
2012	292 CLCs and more than 60,000 graduates. 120 SCRs established. Collaboration with British Council initiated.
2013	Over 300 CLCs and 150 SCRs established. More than 70,000 graduates.

Computer Literacy Program (CLP) – Empowering Youths in Bangladesh

What CLP does?

- Promotes computer literacy and technology assisted education among the under privileged youths in Bangladesh by establishing
  - Computer Literacy Centers (CLCs)
  - Smart Class Rooms (SCRs)
- Safeguards sustenance by supporting hardware maintenance and monitoring operations

Elements of a CLC

Computer Literacy Center

1. A computer lab with:
   - 4 Laptop Computers
   - 1 printer
   - Internet link
2. Trained Teachers
3. Structured Course
4. A Plaque Honoring the Sponsor

Comprehensive Training

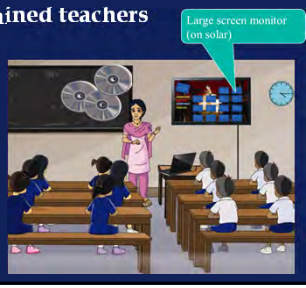
- Hands on 40 hours training – free to students
- Eight students per batch; 2 students per computer
- Student manual (Word, Excel, Paint, and Internet) & Teacher manual

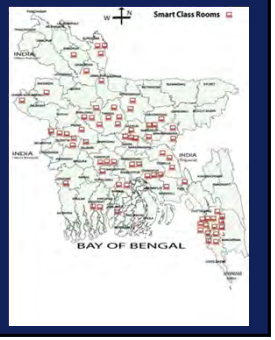
Honorarium: Teacher Tk 1000, Student Assistant: Tk 200 per Batch

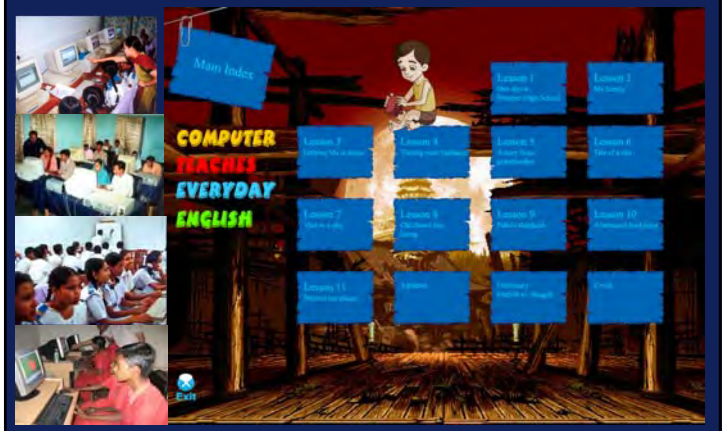
Elements of a SCR

Smart Class Room

- 1 Laptop with backup solar power
- 1 LCD monitor (32 inch) with solar power
- Instructional CDs: English, Science, Geometry, Geography
- 8 trained teachers

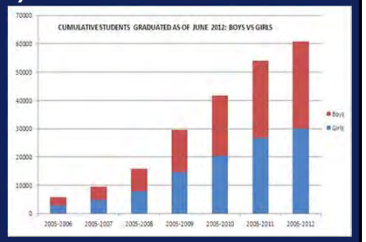






Current Status

- 226 CLC + 92 Associate centers
  - Covers >1% of BD high schools
  - 56 out of 64 districts
- 120 Smart Class Rooms (SCR)
- Trained 942 teachers
- Educated ~ 70,000 students in 40-hrs computer basics, ~ 50% girls
- 33 CLCs and 30 SCRs to be established in 2013



Wheel of CLP Progress

- Relief International sponsored Internet connection to 20 centers
- A CLC teacher receives sponsorship to receive training in the USA
- Microsoft supports 13 job training centers (CLICK Program)
- Involvement of Corporations grows (Bank Asia, Sentrana; Standard Chater Bank, etc.)
- Manthan Award (2009)
- Provided foundation for the Smart Class Room program
- Allowed Intel to demonstrate computer labs with solar in remote areas
- One CLC computerized personal data of an entire union (27 villages)
- British Council
  - Sponsors 50 SCRs and 15 CLCs
  - Selects 5 CLCs and 5 CLICK centers for field testing its computer-based English course
  - Supports Continuing Profession Development for teachers. Total of 112 teachers from 56 schools participated in the training program.

Challenge: Sustenance

What we need in 2013

- Hardware cost estimate ~$22,000
- Maintaining a technical team for maintenance and supervision costs ~$25,000
- Teacher honorarium and site visits: $40,000

Please help sustain CLP

Donate cash any amount

or

Donate $300 for a computer in your name

or

Adopt a center ($300 per year)

Cost of sponsoring CLC and SCR

Computer Literacy Center

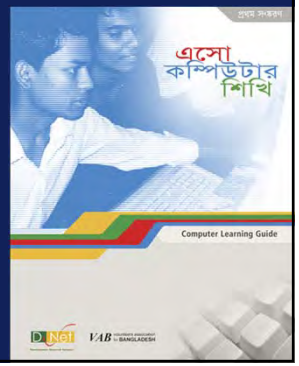
Smart Class Room

Find a CLC near your village

For more information, please visit:

WWW.clp.net.bd

THANK YOU



Computer Literacy Program Publicity Event in Washington DC

Tayyaba T Hasan

On March 9, 2013 Computer Literacy Program (CLP) volunteers and organizers arranged a brief publicity event at the Washington DC Bangladesh Embassy. The key objective of this event was three-fold: bring awareness of CLP activities to Bangladeshi Americans in the DC-Virginia area, present the current challenge of maintaining the existing centers, and create a donor base for the CLP cause.

The guests began arriving at 5:00 PM, during which there were Bengali snacks and refreshments. Several media companies, including Voice of America and ATN Bangla were present at this time to provide coverage of the event.

The main program commenced at 5:30, at which point volunteers gave several presentations, including describing what CLP is, where the programs are located, the requirements of maintaining programs, and the type of education CLP provides. This segment was followed by a question and answer session. Attendees asked a wide array of questions about CLP, including inquiries about the number of computers in the total 226 centers, whether used computers can be utilized in the centers, and the costs of opening and maintaining a center.

The question and answer forum was followed by a 30-minute performance by Dhroopad, a local Bangladeshi musical act.

The attendees and guests were interested to hear about CLP, and furthermore provided feedback and suggestions on how to capture a larger audience in the area in the near future. Few of them also committed to support the CLP cause and made generous commitments to provide funding for the maintenance of CLP centers. Overall, the event was a brief yet successful conference that will further the CLP effort.

Tayyaba Hasan is CLP youth volunteer

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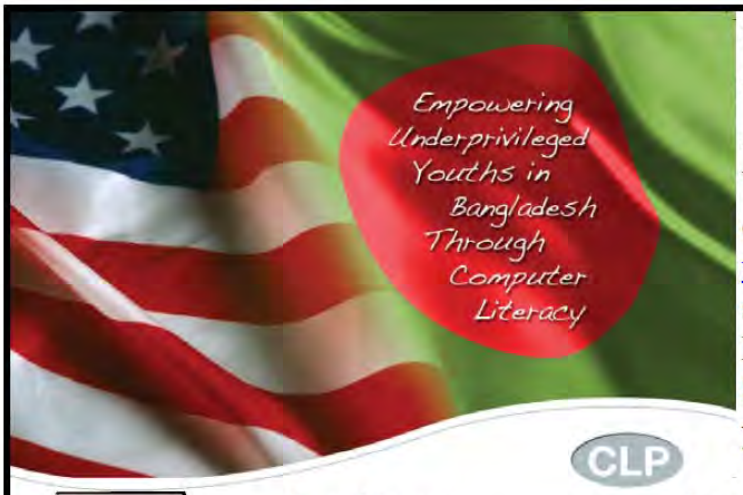

Please donate, for only through your support we are succeeding.

You can pay by personal check, or via Paypal at our website www.vabonline.org/vabnj For stock donation, please contact Mohammad Farooque at (732) 829-0341. We are counting on you.

CLP

First Name:_____Last Name:_____
Street:_____Apt.:_____
City:_____State:_____
Phone No:_____e-mail:_____
Donation amount:_____

Please make check to CLP and mail to VABNJ, 6 Tharp Lane, Marlboro NJ 07746. Your donations are tax deductible. VAB is a 501c organization Tax ID: 13-4034550.

Sponsor A Computer

Some CLCs established in 2005-2009 need computer replacements.

Your pledge of $300 and our match of additional $100+ enable us to replace one computer

British Council and D. net Collaboration on Programs of Interest to CLP

British Council in Bangladesh has recently launched two projects of interest to the Computer Literacy program, and involves active collaboration with D. Net. Both the programs aim at improving the quality of education and instruction in secondary schools in Bangladesh. Here we present a brief overview of the projects.

After-School Club

The goal of this project is to enhance the English and Information and Computer Technology (ICT) competency of students in secondary schools. The project involves 20 centers, 10 of which are based in secondary schools (SS) and the other 10 in Rural Information and Technological Centers (RITCs) in its pilot phase. Ten of these centers are based in schools and RITCs with strong CLP activities.

Warm-up session

The centers are divided into two groups: the control and the experimental. Each group has 5 schools and 5 RITCs. Each experimental center has 5 clubs, one for each grade level. Students attend before- or after-school classes for 2 hours/week for 16 weeks. The intervention content is *Learn English Kids Bangla (LEKB)*, an offline CD designed by British Council for students who are learning English as a second or foreign language in Bangladesh. It includes many interactive features (games, puzzles, songs, drawing and short stories), and intends to develop four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Each one-hour class is divided into three 20-minute sessions. The first session is *warm-up*, where students play different games and develop their speaking and listening skills. The second session focuses on developing listening, reading, writing and speaking skills through the use of LEKB CD on computers. The final *wrap-up* session is for evaluation and summarization. The students participating in the pilot phase seems to enjoy this unconventional mode of learning. Based on the outcome of the pilot project, the intent is to implement the program for secondary schools across the country.

(Contributed by *S M Kamruddin Ropum, Senior Assistant Director, Innovations in Education, D.Net)*

Continuing professional development for teachers

The goal of this project is to ensure continued professional growth of secondary school teachers. This two-day long training program consists of three modules: (1) Professional Development, (2) Global Citizenship, (3) and Intercultural Relationship. The aims of this training are to develop ICT and English skills, support global citizenship through awareness, and encourage collaboration and cultural interaction.

A total of 300 teachers will be trained in 2013, 110 of them are from 55 VAB-NJ sponsored CLCs. The project will continue through 2015 and 300 teachers will be trained each year. Therefore, more CLC teachers will benefit from this professional development training in the future.

(Contributed by *Ajoy Bose, Joint Director, D.Net)*

We laud real estate attorney Maureen A. Carroll for donating $50 for every business she gets from each Bangladeshi client.

Maureen A. Carroll
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Three questions

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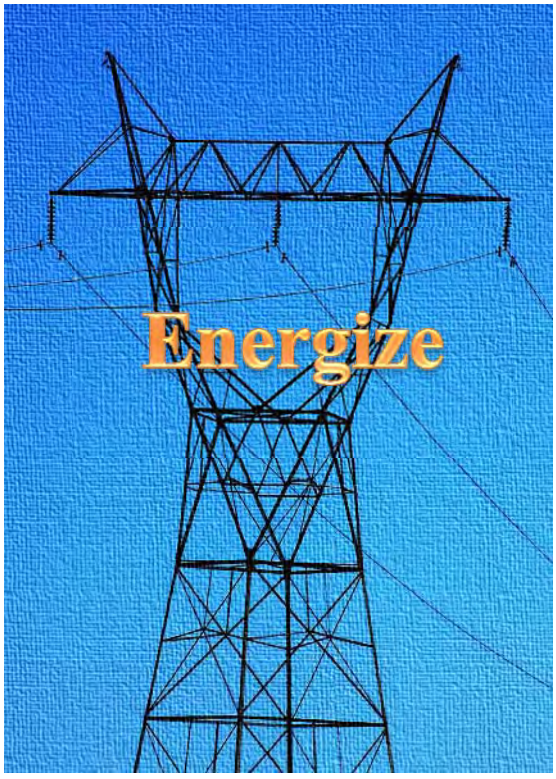

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My summer with Computer Literacy Program

Saleh Mahmud Jahangir

I spent part of 2012 summer observing and gathering information about the implementation of the Computer Literacy Program (CLP) in Bangladesh. As a volunteer of VAB-NJ, I was entrusted with the task of finding out how the Computer Literacy Centers (CLCs) and Smart Class Rooms (SCRs) were functioning, and communicating with sponsors about the status of their sponsored centers. I was to work with the D. Net team responsible for implementation of CLP activities in Bangladesh. I met Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director of D. Net, Mr. Ajoy Bose, Joint Director, and other members of the D. Net team on July 4 when D. Net launched a program empowering women in rural Bangladesh. The next day I met Mr. Bose in his office, and we chalked out a detailed plan of my activities which included the following:

- Visits of schools with CLC, SCR, or both;
- Observing the ongoing Connecting Schools program jointly sponsored by British Council and D.Net;
- Updating the individual sponsors of CLCs and SCRs about the progress of their centers.

Accompanied by Mr. Bose I visited two CLP schools. The first school was Begum Sufia Model High School in Kaliakyor, Dhaka. The school just received four computers; two teachers were trained; and a new batch of 8 students was selected for computer literacy training. The head master of the School gave us the opportunity to talk to the students and we had a very pleasant and fruitful interaction with them. Some of the students have never touched a computer before and to them it was just like a magic box. It was amazing to see how simple exercises like typing their names, making the font bigger and adding different colors made them so happy and excited. Just for the sake of fun we set up a competition between the boys and the girls to see which group of four can type their names faster. They took it seriously and I am not sure if in their zeal to win if they had any fun or not! Hopefully this competitive spirit will help them to do better in their regular academic classes.

Incidentally on the same day, the school was also visited by a sponsor from USA. This school already has the setup for the CLC. The sponsor will help the school to establish the SCR. The school authority and D.net had a meeting with the sponsor. Mr. Bose explained the concept of the SCR, answered all the questions and the meeting ended with satisfaction to all concerned.

We also visited IES Uttara Model High School and College on the same day. The CLC for this school has been established very recently. Two teachers have been trained by D.Net. SCR will be implemented soon. The principal of the college informed us that the students are all excited, and can hardly wait to get their hands on the computer.

During my stay at the D.net I had the opportunity to attend two of their official meetings. The first meeting was on Content Development. Presided over by Mr. Bose, the meeting was attended by all the members of the Content Development and Logistic support team. Most of the members are graduates from the Institute of

Education and Research, Dhaka University. The meeting was conducted in a very professional manner. All the issues and ideas were projected on a screen through power point. Starting from going by the agenda, all present in the meeting had a voice and all their opinions were duly taken into account.
The next meeting was on Strategic Planning for the Implementation of CLC and SCR programs. Mr. ATM Kamruzzaman, a Senior Assistant Director of D.Net led the meeting. He showed me the details of his strategic planning. I was quite impressed with his presentation that he did in his laptop. Starting from content development to management and monitoring, he even had the breakup of the working days for the whole year.
CLP was initiated in 2004 and as of July 2012 CLCs were established in a total of 223 schools. The main purpose of this program is to provide students with basic computer training, so that their fear of computer is alleviated as they receive 40 hours of hands-on training before or after the regular school hours. The students do not feel stressed with such activity, as it not directly related to their academics. On the contrary they take it as fun and learn more.

The SCR program on the other hand complements what the students learn in their regular classes. This is a new concept that VAB-NJ and D. Net launched in the 2010. In a SCR students learn from educational CDs and Internet where available using a laptop and a widescreen monitor. Four teachers from each school under the program are first trained on the basics of computer and browsing the internet for academic purposes. The initial focus is on teaching of English, Mathematics, General Science and Geography. After successful completion of the training each school will receive a laptop and LCD Monitor for visualization of the respective lessons by the
The SCR Program is being implemented under the Public Private Partnership initiative of the Government of Bangladesh. Under this initiative 30 SCRs were established in 2011, 40 in 2012 and another 30 will be established in 2013.

The British Council in Dhaka initiated their Connecting Schools Program and chose 50 schools in a pilot study. They established collaboration with D. Net for implementation of the program. A total of 200 teachers, 4 from every school were selected to receive training starting May 7, 2012 and concluded on August 8, 2012. Under the joint collaboration British Council provided the financial support and D.Net provided all the logistic support and training.

All the teachers were provided with a CD that had lesson plan on a particular subject for a particular class. I was impressed by the content and quality of animation used in the CD. I was even more impressed to learn that the CDs were developed locally, with one being developed by D.Net, working in another building, not too far from where I was. Content development is a priority and D. Net has a dedicated team pursuing the effort. As a guest speaker I had the privilege of giving few lectures for the participants which I enjoyed thoroughly. On two occasions I was also honored to give away the certificates to the trainee teachers after successful completion of the SCR Training Program.

The CLC and SCR programs are making a significant impact in the education sector of Bangladesh. VAB-NJ and D.Net definitely deserves credit for launching such wonderful and timely programs. Bangladesh Government, British Council, Bank Asia and other private sectors and many individual sponsors provided crucial support for the program. Bangladeshis residing in USA or any other foreign countries may sponsor CLCs and SCRs in high schools of their own choice. D.Net has the proper infrastructure, required manpower and the right protocols for implementation.

Soon it was time to leave. My experience with D.Net was truly rewarding and I had a wonderful time enjoying a part of my vacation working with D.Net as a CLP volunteer from Connecticut. I was given all the logistic support to do my work, including a separate sitting arrangement with telephone and internet connection to my laptop. I felt like as if I were one of them. I had the flexibility to work with them at my convenience. My sincere thanks go to Mr. Ajoy Bose and his team for being so kind to me.

Saleh Mahmud Jahangir, Physics Teacher, Stamford High School, Stamford CT, Retired Chief Scientist of Atomic Energy Commission, Bangladesh

Eastablished CLCs and SCRs and sponsors (as of June 2013)

SL	Center Name	District	Start Date	CLC/SCR	Sponsor
1	Hazi Kashem Ali Degree College	Mymensingh Sadar	Mar '05	CLC	Mr. Nasim Ali, Princeton, NJ
2	Hazi Kashem Ali Mohila College	Mutkagacha, Mymensingh	Mar '05	CLC	Mr. Nasim Ali, Princeton, NJ
3	Bagerhat Bahumukhi High School	Amlapara, Bagerhat	Apr '05	CLC & SCR	Ms. Lubna Kabir, Bridgewater, NJ
4	Mukul Niketon High School	Mymensingh Sadar	Mar '05	CLC & SCR	Dr. Zaki Hossain, Long Island, NY
5	Uddipan Badar Shamsuddin Biddya Neketion	Baitpur, Bagerhat	Apr '05	CLC & SCR	Ms. Shamsun Nahar, Marlboro, NJ
6	Amla Sadarpur High School	Amla, Kushtia	Apr '05	CLC & SCR	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
7	Goal Gram College	Goalgram, Kushtia	Mar '05	CLC	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
8	Khukni High School	Khukni, Sirajgonj	Jun '05	CLC & SCR	Mr. Amzad Khan, Edison, NJ
9	Kadambari High School	Kadambari, Madaripur	Jun '05	CLC & SCR	Dr. Swapan Kumar Gayen, Barlboro, NJ
10	Farha Madhomik School	Komrail, Khulna	Jun '05	CLC	Dr. S.K. Bakar, New York, NY
11	Mirzanagar Touhid Academy	Subar Bazar, Feni	Jun '05	CLC & SCR	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
12	Barashalghar Union High School	Baroshalghar, Comilla	Jun '05	CLC & SCR	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
13	Baruahat High School	Baruahat, Rangpur	Jun '05	CLC & SCR	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
14	Mamun Smriti Public High School	Chantia Bazar, Jamalpur	Jun '05	CLC & SCR	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
15	Parkhidirpur Maddhomic Biddalaya	Parkhidirpur, Pabna	Jun '05	CLC	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
16	Shologhar AKSK High School	Shologhar, Munshigonj	Jun '05	CLC & SCR	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
17	Babrijhar High School	Babrijhar, Nilphamari	Jun '05	CLC	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
18	Ghagotia Chala High School	Chala Bazar, Gazipur	Jun '05	CLC	Mr. & Mrs. Zia Uddin Ahmad, Monroe, NJ
19	BL High School	Amlapara, Sirajgonj	Jun '05	CLC & SCR	Dr. A. A. Chowdhury, Portsmouth, VA
20	Laskardia Atikur Rahman High School	Laskardia, Faridpur	Feb '06	CLC & SCR	Drs. Shah and Anisa Yunus, Pittsburgh, VA
21	Bhaterchar D.A. Mannan Pilot High School	Bhaterchar, Munshigonj	Jun '05	CLC & SCR	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
22	McPherson Public Library	Bagerhat Sadar	Feb '06	CLC	Dr. Monira Haque, Edison, NJ
23	Khaikara High School	Khaikara, Gazipur	Feb '06	CLC & SCR	Dr. Taher U. Akhand, Glastonebury, CT
24	Kurigram Girls High School	Kurigram Sadar	Feb '06	CLC & SCR	Dr. KBM Zaman, Cleaveland, OH
25	Banna Kandi N.M. High School	Bannakandi, Sirajgonj	Feb '06	CLC & SCR	Dr. A. A. Chowdhury, Portsmouth, VA
26	Karihata High School	Karihata, Gazipur	Feb '06	CLC	Mr. & Mrs.Zia Uddin Ahmad, Monroe, NJ
27	Rasulpur Basirun Nessa High School	Rasulpur, Tangail	Feb '06	CLC	Dr. Emdadul Haque, Port Orange, FL
28	Maharajpur High School	Maharajpur, Chapai Nababgonj	Feb '06	CLC	Dr. Waled H . Chowdhury, Bethpage, NY
29	North Bengal Medical College	Sirajgonj Sadar	Feb '06	CLC	Dr. A. A.Chowdhury, Portsmouth, VA
30	Panchani High School	Panchani, Chandpur	Feb '06	CLC	Mr. Mohammad Zafarullah, San Jose, CA
31	Nadir Hossin Girls High School	Kashba Najail, Rajbari	Feb '06	CLC	Dr. Faizul Islam, Houston, Texas
32	Nasirkote High School	Nasirkote, Chandpur	Feb '06	CLC & SCR	Dr. Sultan Alam, Holmdel, NJ
33	Adhunika Bangladesh Society	Azimpur, Dhaka	Feb '06	CLC	Adhunika Bangladesh Society, Dhaka
34	M.A. Karim Bahumukhi High School	Hinga Nagar, Tangail	Feb '06	CLC	SpandaanB, San Jose, CA
35	Kazi Jalaluddin Bahumukhi Girls High School	Sylhet, Sylhet	Feb '06	CLC	Dr. Nasreen Rab, Bangladesh
36	Ekuria High School	Ekuria, Gazipur	Jun '06	CLC	Mr. & Mrs. Zia Uddin Ahmad, Monroe, NJ
37	Shahaber Bazar High School	Shahaber Bazar, Sylhet	Jun '06	CLC	Drs. Zaman, Hossain, Ahmed, Hicksville, NY
38	Rifayetpur High School	Rifayetpur, Kushtia	Jun '06	CLC	Dr. A. K. Azad, East Greenbush, NY
39	Barura Govt Girls High School	Barura, Comilla	Jun '06	CLC	Dr. Monowara Begum, Tappan, NY
40	Tarail Pilot High School	Tarail, Kishorganj	Dec '06	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd., Bangladesh
41	Malkhanagar School & Collage	Malkhanagar, Munshigonj	Dec '06	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd, Bangladesh
42	Shanuhar M. A. High School	Uzirpur, Barisal	Feb '07	CLC	Dr. Sirajul Huq, Wall, NJ
43	Shahid Hasan Foyez Girls High School	Haripur, Kustia	Feb '07	CLC	Mr. Rezbul Chowdhury, Arlington, MA
44	Montijar Rahman Mia Girls High School	Shailakupa, Jhenaidah	Feb '07	CLC	Ms. Shahreen Quazi, Boston, MA
45	The Old Kustia High School	Haripur, Kustia	Feb '07	CLC	Mr. Rezbul Chowdhury, Arlington, MA
46	Brahman Baria High School	Brahman Baria Sadar	Feb '07	CLC	Mr. Salahudin Shahriar, Mechanicsburg, PA
47	Pashchim Banskhali Upakulia College	Banskhali, Chittagong	Apr '07	CLC	Dr. Mahfuz R.Chowdhury, Uniondale, NY
48	Shailan Surma High School	Dhamrai, Dhaka	Apr '07	CLC	Dr. Dalilur Rahman, Flemington, NJ
49	SURAVI	Dhanmondi, Dhaka	Apr '07	CLC	Dr. M. Hussain, Monmouth Junction, NJ
50	Shalkuria High School	Nabangonj, Dinajpur	Jul '07	CLC	Mr. Muhit Rahman, Los Angeles,CA
51	Setabganj Pilot High School	Setabgonj, Dinajpur	Jul '07	CLC	Mr. Muhit Rahman, Los Angeles,CA
52	Panchagar Bisnhnu Proshad Govt. High School	Panchagar Sadar	Jul '07	CLC	Mr. Muhit Rahman, Los Angeles,CA
53	Hasara K.K. High School	Sreenagar, Munshigonj	Jul '07	CLC	Dr. Rashid Hasan, Minneapolis, MN

Eastablished CLCs and SCRs and sponsors (as of June 2013)

SL	Center Name	District	Start Date	CLC/SCR	Sponsor
54	Boro Basalia High School	Tangail Sadar, Tangail	Aug '07	CLC	Dr. Emdadul Haque, Florida, USA
55	South Satara High School	Chagalnaiya, Feni	Jul '07	CLC	Mr. Tazin Shadid, Redmond, WA
56	Darbeshgonj High School	Kachua, Chandpur	Apr '07	CLC	Dr. Serajus Salekin Quaderi, Marlboro, NJ
57	Satkania Golam Bari High School	Satkania, Chittagong	Jul '07	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd, Bangladesh
58	Mehandigonj Muktijodhya Sangsad	Mehandigonj, Barisal	Jul '07	CLC	Mr. Tazin Shadid, Redmond, WA
59	Coronation High School	Bogra Sadar, Bogra	Feb '08	CLC	Dr. KBM Zaman, Cleveland, OH
60	Garda A.F. Mujibur Rahman Secondary School	Faridpur Sadar, Faridpur	Feb '08	CLC & SCR	Dr. Shah Yunus, Pittsburgh, PA
61	Shila Roy Chowdhury High School	Jessore Sadar, Jessore	Feb '08	CLC	BUET Alumni, Houston, TX
62	Gorpara M.L High School	Manikgonj Sadar, Manikgonj	Mar '08	CLC	Dr. Humayara Islam Khan, Bangladesh
63	Ranigonj Mohila College	Ghoraghat, Dinazpur	May '08	CLC	Mr. Muhit Rahman, Los Angeles, CA
64	Loka BL High School	Nababgonj, Dinazpur	May '08	CLC	Mr. Muhit Rahman, Los Angeles, CA
65	Daudpur BL High School	Nababgonj, Dinazpur	May '08	CLC	Mr. Muhit Rahman, Los Angeles, CA
66	Nageswari D.M. Academy	Nageswari, Kurigram	May '08	CLC & SCR	Mr. Shaju A. Shahjahan, Pepper Pike, OH
67	Shayestabad Girls High School	Barisal Sadar, Barisal	Feb '08	CLC	Hossain Trust, Dhaka
68	Chunati High School	Lohagara, Chittagong	Mar '08	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
69	Adhunagar High School	Lohagara, Chittagong	Mar '08	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
70	Padua A.C.M. High School	Lohagara, Chittagong	Mar '08	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
71	Sayed Habibul Haq High School	Kishorgonj Sadar, Kishorgonj	Feb '08	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
72	Hazi Golam Hossen Girls High School	Tarail, Kishorgonj	Apr '08	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
73	Rajdia Avoy Pilot High School	Sirajdikhan, Munshigonj	Apr '08	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
74	Palla Mahabub Adarsha High School	Chatkhil, Noakhali	Apr '08	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
75	Bhimpur Technical School & College	Chatkhil, Noakhali	Apr '08	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
76	Liton Computers	Ashulia, Dhaka	May '08	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
77	Ispahani High School	Keranigonj, Dhaka	May '08	CLC	Bank Asia,Ltd, Bangladesh
78	Dinarpur High School	Nabigonj, Hobigonj	Sep. '08	CLC	Mr. A.M. Chowdhury Mukul, NY, USA
79	Borogangdia High School	Daulatpur, Kustia	Sep. '08	CLC & SCR	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
80	Nasirkote Shahid Smriti College	Hazigonj, Chandpur	Apr '08	CLC	Dr. Sultan Alam, Holmdel, NJ
81	Khandal High School & College	Parshuram, Feni	Apr '09	CLC	Dr. Suprasad Boidhya Roy, Princeton, NJ
82	Abu Taher Dakhil Madrasha	Shibchar, Madaripur	Apr '09	CLC	Dr. Belayet Choudhury, Belle Meade, NJ
83	Shuryasen Orphanage	Wazirpur, Barisal	Apr '09	CLC	Mr. Muhit Rahman, Los Angeles, CA
84	Sree Sree Pronab Math	Nazirpur, Pirojpur	Apr '09	CLC	Mr. Muhit Rahman, Los Angeles, CA
85	Nageswari Adarsha Pilot Utcha Balika Bidyaloi	Nageswari, Kurigram	Apr '09	CLC & SCR	Ms. Sharmin Shahjahan, Pepper Pike, OH
86	AK Khan-UCEP Kalurghat Technical School	Chittagong	Apr '09	CLC	I-K Foundation, Bangladesh
87	Jamalgonj High School	Akkelpur, Joypurhat	Apr '09	CLC	BUET Alumni, Houston, TX
88	Nagarkanda Degree College	Nagarkanda, Faridpur	Jun '09	CLC	Dr. Shah Yunus, Pittsburgh, PA
89	Bagmoniram S.K.City Corporation Girls High School	Chittagong	Apr '09	CLC & SCR	Dr. Monowara Begum, Tappan, NY
90	Dalta Rahmania High School	Ramgonj, Laxmipur	Apr '09	CLC	Mr. Zafar Ullah, San Jose, CA
91	Ambarkhana Girls High School	Sylhet, Sylhet	Feb '06	CLC	Dr. Ahmed, Mr. Ahmed, Dr. Hussain, PA/NJ
92	Two Star Computers	Daulatpur, Kustia	Apr '09	CLC	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
93	Bagmara High School	Comilla Sadar South, Comilla	May '09	CLC	Mr. Pavel Rahman, Toronto, ON, Canada
94	Kasba T.Ali Degree College	Kasba, B. Baria	May '09	CLC	Dr. Toufiq Ali, Bangladesh
95	Hemnagar Shashimukhi High School	Gopalpur, Tangail	May '09	CLC & SCR	NABIC, USA
96	K.G.H.F Mowkhali United Academy	Paikgacha, Khulna	May '09	CLC	NABIC, USA
97	Kalipur Ezharul Hoque High School	Banshkhali, Chittagong	May '09	CLC & SCR	NABIC, USA
98	Noor School	Sujanagar, Pabna	May '09	CLC	NABIC, USA
99	Suapur Nannar High School	Dhamrai, Dhaka	May '09	CLC & SCR	NABIC, USA
100	Chagaldhara High School	Sariakandi, Bogra	Jun '09	CLC & SCR	NABIC, USA
101	Bishnapur A. R. High School	Sadar, Gaibandha	Jun '09	CLC & SCR	NABIC, USA
102	Khorda Kamarpur High School	Sadullahpur, Gaibandha	Jun '09	CLC & SCR	NABIC, USA
103	Habibpur Secondary High School	Wazirpur, Barisal	Jun '09	CLC	NABIC, USA
104	Aoliabad High School	Madhabpur, Hobigonj	Jun '09	CLC & SCR	NABIC, USA
105	Islamabad Girls Orphanage	Chittagong	Jun '09	CLC	Ms. Farhat Khan, Chittagong
106	Hajipur Secondary School	Magura Sadar, Magura	Apr. 10	CLC	ICNEWS, Austin,TX

Eastablished CLCs and SCRs and sponsors (as of June 2013)

SL	Center Name	District	Start Date	CLC/SCR	Sponsor
107	Dr.Imdad and S. Khan A. A. T. P. Primary School	Natore	Apr. 10	CLC	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
108	Kanutia A Ala High School	Mohammadpur, Magura	Apr. 10	CLC	Principal Latifa Khatun, Bangladesh
109	Baramchal High School and College	Kulaora, Moulavibazar	Apr. 10	CLC	Mr. Azadur Rahman (Tareque), USA
110	Fatema Sangstha School at Bhartkhali	Bhartkhali, Gaibandha	Jun '10	CLC	Mr. Muhit Rahman, Los Angeles,CA
111	Khondker Abdul Mazid High School	Ullapara R/S	Jun '10	CLC & SCR	Dr. Sufian Khondker , New York, NY
112	Gouripur Subal-Aftab High School	Daudkandi, Comilla	Jun '10	SCR	Mr. Abdus Sikder, North Bellmor, NY
113	West End High School	Azimpur, Lalbag, Dhaka	Jun '10	CLC	Sentrana, USA
114	Jahanara Girls High School	Amla Sadarpur, Mirpur, Kustia	Sep'10	CLC & SCR	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
115	Brotee Regional Office	Tanore, Rajshahi	Sep'10	CLC	NABIC, USA
116	Botiabhanga High School	Gabtoli, Bogra	Sep'10	CLC & SCR	NABIC, USA
117	Khajuria High School	Faridgonj, Chandpur	Sep'10	CLC & SCR	NABIC, USA
118	Kamlapur High School	Kustia Sadar, Kustia	Sep'10	CLC	NABIC, USA
119	Mirpur High School	Kumarkhali, Kustia	Sep'10	SCR	NABIC, USA
120	Laboratory School, Mymensingh	Mymensingh Sadar, Mymensingh	Sep'10	CLC	Mr. ATM Masood, Winnipeg, MB, Canada
121	Al-Hera Public School	Savar – Dhaka	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
122	Amirabad Jonokalayan Girls High School	Lohagora, Chittagong	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
123	Ashulia Rotary School	Ashulia – Dhaka	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
124	Baghia High School	Konabari – Gazipur	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
125	Konabari MA Kuddus High School	Konabari – Gazipur	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
126	Ichapura High School	Malkhanagar – Munshigonj	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
127	Mostafa Begum Girls High School	Lohagora, Chittagong	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
128	Munshigonj High School	Malkhanagar - Munshigonj	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
129	Rohitpur High School	Keranigonj, Dhaka	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
130	Shahid Ahsanullah Master High School	Tongi – Gazipur	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia,Ltd, Bangladesh
131	Shahpir Pilot High School	Lohagora, Chittagong	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia,Ltd, Bangladesh
132	Talgachia Deshanterkati High School	Betagi. Barguna	Jul '11	CLC	Chicago Halaka Party, Chicago, IL
133	Harish Chandrapur High School	Chirir Bondor, Dinajpur	Jul '11	CLC	Family of J.U. Ahmad, SpaandanB, Austin, TX
134	Shekandordi A.M.High School	Palash, Narshingdi	Jul '11	CLC	Dr. Fazlur R. Chowdhury , Bardonia, NY
135	Ratandia R.K High School	Kalukhali, Rajbari	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Md. A. Rahman Sarkar, Dhaka, Bangladesh
136	Ghorashal Pilot High Scool	Ghorasal, Narsindi	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Dr. Mushfiqur Rahman, Melbourne, Australia
137	Siddikia Begum Girls' High School	North Matlab, Chandpur	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Dr. Abu Masud, Wichita, KS
138	Badartuni High School	Hizla, Barisal	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Dr. M. Abidur Rahman, MI
139	Muladi High School	Muladi, Barisal	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Dr. M. Abidur Rahman, MI
140	Patharghata High School	Mirzapur, Tangail	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Mr. Mohammed Saleh, R.Ph, Merrick, NY
141	Satarpara High School	Daulatpur, Kustia	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation, Saratoga, CA
142	Maijhati High School	Gouripur, Mymensing	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Tahsin Askar & SpaandanB, Austin, TX
143	Pirkhain Moulana Asraf Chowdhury High School	Anwara, Chittagong	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Dr. F. K. Shariff, Canada
144	Union Krishi High School	Patia, Chittagong	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Dr. F. K. Shariff, Canada
145	Kanudaskati Nalbunia High School	Rajapur, Jhalakati	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Dr. Ali Ahmed, Chicago, IL
146	Jamal Uddin High School	Dhamrai, Dhaka	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Sentrana , USA
147	Yakub Ali High School	Boalmari, Faridpur	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Family of S. Haque & SpaandanB, Austin, TX
148	Tofail Ali Technical School and College	Nabinagar, Brahmin Baria	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Mr. Md. Saifuddin Khalid, Denmark
149	Mirkamary Adrsha Uchha Biddaloy	Ishwardi, Pabna	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Mr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Dhaka, Bangladesh
150	Kushumpura High School	Patia, Chittagong	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Mr. Idris Sultan, Dallas, TX
151	Maliara Mahira Mahirahi Khaine High School	Patia, Chittagong	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Mr. Idris Sultan, Dallas, TX
152	Manasha High School and College	Md. Rafique, Principal	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Mr. Idris Sultan, Dallas, TX
153	Ankur Society Girls High School, Nasirabad, Chittagong	Nasirabad, Chittagong	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Mr. Ali Ahmed, Chittagong
154	Amardesh Residential High School, Gaibandha	Saghata, Gaibandha	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Dhaka
155	Banga Bandhu Biddya Neketon	Mirpur, Dhaka	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Sentrana, USA
156	Purba Jurain Adarsha High School	Jurain, Dhaka	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Sentrana, USA
157	Harisangan High School	Belabo, Narsindi	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Sentrana, USA
158	Shonaimuri High School	Sonaimuri Noakhali	Jul '11	CLC & SCR	Drs. N. Chowdhury and I. Jahan, Chicago, IL
159	Shahid Moulana Kasimuddin Uchacha Biddalay	Pabna Sadar, Pabna	Jul '11	CLC	Mr. Shahriar Ahmed, USA

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SL	Center Name	District	Start Date	CLC/SCR	Sponsor
160	Hazera Talukder Balika Bidyalaya	Bauphal, Potuakhali	Jul '11	CLC	Mr. Dulal Talukder and SpaandanB Austin, TX
161	Japan-Bangladesh Friendship High School	Surma, Sylhet	Jul '11	CLC	Rotary Club of Metropiltan Dhaka
162	Kadambari Union College	Rajoir, Madaripur	Jul '11	CLC	Dr. Swapan Kumar Gayen, Marlboro, NJ
163	Rays Hope Orphanage	Savar, Dhaka	Jul '11	CLC	Mr. Tahsin Askar & SpandaanB , Austin, TX
164	Shahid Rowshan Ali Khan College	Bashail, Tangail	Jul '11	CLC	Mr. Hamid Reza Khan, USA
165	Arjuna Mohsen High School	Buapur, Tangail	Jul '11	SCR	APW, Canada
166	Bilkis Mosharrof High School	Daudkandi, Comilla	Jul '11	SCR	Abdus Sikder, USA
167	HICARE SCHOOL	Dhanmondi, Dhaka	Apr '12	CLC	Md. S. Haque Memorial SpaandanB Austin, TX
168	Camellia Duncan Foundation School	Kulaura, Moulvibazar	Apr '12	CLC	Fahad Khalil and SpaandanB Austin, TX
169	Dr. Abdul Quader Dakhil Madrasah	Pangsha, Dist: Rajbari	Apr '12	CLC	Ashfaq Hossain, USA
170	Pashdona Sir K. G. Gupta High School	Narsingdi Sadar, District:Narshindi	Jun '12	CLC	Kamal Debnath, Australia
171	Katir Hat Girl High School	Hathazri, Chittagong,	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Rina Akter, USA
172	Barkal Abdul Hai Anwara Begum Girls High School	Chandanaish, Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	A. Wazed Mahmud, M.D., USA
173	Mahamuni Anglo Pali High School	Raozan, Chittagong,	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Mr & Mrs Alauddin Chowdhury, USA
174	South Shucipara Union High School	Sharastai, Chadpur	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	M. Islam, Q. I. Kumar, A. Islam, USA
175	Jangail Khain High School	Potia, Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Dr. F. K. Sharif, USA
176	Liakot Ali High School	Kasba, B. Baria	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Dr. Toufic Ali, Bangladesh
177	Banigram Shadhanpur High School	Bashkhali,Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC	Idris Sultan, USA
178	Kalarpul Hazi Md. Omra Mia Chowdhury M.L High School	Patia, Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC	Idris Sultan, USA
179	Khalilmir High School, Patia	Patia, Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC	Idris Sultan, USA
180	Kartala Belkhain Mahabodhi High School	Patia, Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC	Jewel Chowdhury, USA
181	Katirhat High School	Hathazri, Chittagong,	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Mohammed Osman Ghani, USA
182	Mashikara High School	Dabidar; Commila	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	M.Rahman, R. Islam & M.Rahman, Singapore
183	Adarsha Madhyamik Vidalaya-Kushtia	Sadar, Kustia	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	N. K. Paul and A. M. Khan, USA
184	Khamar Para High School	Gopalpur, Tangail	Jun '12	CLC	Dr. Nuran Nabi, USA
185	Satirpara K. K. Institute - 2 SCR	Sadar, Norshandai	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	DC, Narsindi, USA
186	Ideal High School	Sadar, Norshandai	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	DC, Narsindi, Bangladesh
187	Nanupur Aboo Sobhan High School	Fatikchari, Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC	Steve Asif Faruque, USA
188	Nandina Model Academy	Sadar, Jamalpur,	Jun '12	CLC	Khalil Family and SpaandanB Austin, USA
189	Latifa Siddiqi Girl's High School	Shitakundo, Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Shams Siddiqi, USA
190	Dhanpota High School	Jhikorgasa, Jessore	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Ahsan Kabeer & SpaandanB Austin,USA
191	Talbaria Bahumukhi Secondary School	Sadar, Jessore	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Iftekhar Rahman and SpaandanB Austin, USA
192	Bauphal Adarsho Uchcho Balika Biddyalaya	Bauphol, Patuakhali	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Tahmina Akhter, USA
193	Krishna Gobindapur High School	Sadar, Chapinababgonj	Jun '12	CLC	Ashfaq Hossain, USA
194	Chalkjhagru High School	Sadar, Chapinababgonj	Jun '12	CLC	Golam Morshed Osmani, Hridoya Bangladesh
195	Bauphal Model Maddhyamic Biddyalaya	Bauphol, Patuakhali	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Tahmina Akhter, USA
196	Ranihati Multicultural High School	Shibjong, Chapainawabgonj	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Yasmeen Ali, USA
197	Hasandandi M L High School	Chandanaish,Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC	Nizam Uddin, USA
198	Quaish Burichar Shomolani High School	Hathazari, Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC	Nizam Uddin, USA
199	I.E.S. School	Uttara Model Town, Dhaka	Jun '12	CLC	Sahana Farid, USA
200	Bauria G. K. Academy	Shandip,Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC	Golam Rasul Chowdhury, USA
201	Ayesha Obayed Girls High School	Shandip,Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC	Golam Rasul Chowdhury, USA
202	Alinagar High School	Sadar, Chapainawabgonj	Jun '12	CLC	SpaandanB Austin, USA
203	Chandpara High School	Chowgacha, Jessore	Jun '12	CLC	Ahsan Kabeer & Tahsin Askar, USA
204	Patibila Hazi Shahjahan Ali High School	Chowgacha, Jessore	Jun '12	CLC	Ahsan Kabeer & Tahsin Askar, USA
205	Captain Shamsul Huda High School	Sitakundo, Chittagong	Jun '12	CLC & SCR	Shams Sidddiqi, USA
206	Sonavori Model High School	Rowmari, Kurigram	Jun '12	CLC	Rezwanul Kabir,USA
207	Atrai High School	Upazila: Atrai, Dist: Naogaon	Jun '12	CLC	Quamrul Mina, USA
208	East Jalabari Adarsha High School	Sharupkathi, Pirojpur	Jun '12	CLC	UTBSA, USA
209	Begum Sufia Model High School	Kaliakoir, Gajipur	Jun '12	CLC	Daughters of K. Banu, Srifoltoli, Bangladesh
210	Talepur High School	Keranigonj, Dhaka	Feb '11	CLC	Bank Asia Ltd. Bangladesh
211	Martha Linderstorm-N. J. Begum Gilrs H. School	Tangail	Jun '12	SCR	Ahsan H Mansur, Dhaka, Bangladesh
212	Dhakieswari Mills High School	Bandar,Narayanganj	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh

Eastablished CLCs and SCRs and sponsors (as of June 2013)

SL	Center Name	District	Start Date	CLC/SCR	Sponsor
213	Begum Fatima Girls High School	Tungipara,Gopalgong	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
214	Fyjunnessa High School	Saturia,Manikgong	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
215	Madam Bibirhat Shahjahan High School	Sitakunda,Chittagong	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
216	Kharikong High School	Sadar, Rangamati	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
217	Arag Anandapur Adarsha High School	Burichang,Comilla	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
218	Amtoli Secondary School	Sreepur,Magura	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
219	Dorsona Secondary Girls High School	Damurhuda,Chuadanga	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
220	Tulatali Secondary School	Kalapara,Patuakhali	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
221	Ramkrishno Girl's High School	Sadar,Sylhet	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
222	Border Gard High School	Sreemongal,Moulovibazar	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
223	Binnyakuri High School	Chirirbandar,Dinajpur	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
224	Holokhana High School	Sadar,Kurigram	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
225	Taluk Shakhati High School	Kaligonj,Lalmonirhat	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
226	Goreya S/C High School	Thakurgaon,Thakurgaon	Jul '12	CLC	British Council, Bangladesh
227	Hargoj Shahid Smriti High School	Saturia,Manikgong	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
228	Daragram High School	Saturia,Manikgong	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
229	Char Tilli High School	Saturia,Manikgong	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
230	Baliati I C High School	Saturia,Manikgong	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
231	Janna Model High School	Saturia,Manikgong	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
232	Fukurhati Kandarpara Mozibar Rahman High School	Saturia,Manikgong	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
233	Bandar Girls School & College	Bandar,Narayanganj	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
234	B . M Union High School	Bandar,Narayanganj	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
235	Shonakanda High School	Bandar,Narayanganj	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
236	Hazi Sirajuddin Memorial High School	Bandar,Narayanganj	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
237	Sonaichary High School	Sitakunda,Chittagong	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
238	Masajidda High School	Sitakunda, Chittagong	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
239	Barabkund High School	Sitakunda,Chittagong	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
240	Bhatiary Hajee T A C High School	Sitakunda,Chittagong	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
241	Vedvedee Pouro High School	Rangamati Sadar,Rangamati	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
242	Burichong Model Academy	Burichong,Comilla	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
243	Bara Baldia High School	Damurhuda,Chuadanga	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
244	Dakshin Chandpur Secondary School	Damurhuda,Chuadanga	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
245	Loknethpur S.S. High School	Damurhuda,Chuadanga	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
246	Khamarpara Pilot Girls' Hgih School	Sreepur,Magura	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
247	Kazoli High School	Sreepur,Magura	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
248	Panchapally High School	Sreepur,Magura	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
249	Barishat Secondary School	Sreepur,Magura	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
250	Mahipur Co-Opt. Secondary School	Kalapara,Patuakhali	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
251	Pakhimara Profulla Bhoumik High School	Kalapara,Patuakhali	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
252	Police Lines High School	Sylhet Sadar,Sylhet	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
253	Kishori Mohan Girls' High School	Sylhet Sadar,Sylhet	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
254	PDB High School	Sylhet Sadar,Sylhet	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
255	Victoria High School	Sreemongal,Moulovibazar	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
256	Begum Rasujan Abdul Bari High School	Sreemongal,Moulovibazar	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
257	Sreemongal Udyan Girls High School	Sreemongal,Moulovibazar	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
258	Kanthalbari Girls High School	Kurigram Sadar,Kurigram	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
259	BELGACHA B BL HIGH SCHOOL	Kurigram Sadar,Kurigram	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
260	Kanthal Bari Bl. High School	Kurigram Sadar,Kurigram	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
261	Kurigram Kalektarate School	Kurigram Sadar,Kurigram	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
262	Harishwar Taluk High School	Rajarhat,Kurigram	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
263	M A Sattar Adarsha High School	Kurigram Sadar,Kurigram	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
264	Kurigram Adarsha High School	Kurigram Sadar,Kurigram	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
265	Khalilgonj School and College	Kurigram Sadar,Kurigram	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh

Eastablished CLCs and SCRs and sponsors (as of June 2013)

SL	Center Name	District	Start Date	CLC/SCR	Sponsor
266	Hazrania High School	Kaligonj,Lalmonirhat	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
267	Dr. Chandana High School	Kaligonj,Lalmonirhat	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
268	Banani Nagar High School	Kaligonj,Lalmonirhat	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
269	Shakhati High School	Kaligonj,Lalmonirhat	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
270	Chirirbandar Girls High School	Chirirbandar,Dinajpur	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
271	Shukipur High School	Chirirbandar,Dinajpur	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
272	Khochona S C High School	Chirirbandar,Dinajpur	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
273	Jogonnathpur High School	Chirirbandar,Dinajpur	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
274	Jononi Girls High School	Chirirbandar,Dinajpur	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
275	Goreya Girls High School	Sadar,Thakurgaon	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
276	Chakhmill High School	Sadar,Thakurgaon	Jul '12	SCR	British Council, Bangladesh
277	Begum Hamida Siddique Collegiate School	Boria, Kushtia	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Drs. Reshmi & Mahmood Siddique, USA
278	Kotchandpur Boys High School	Kotchandpur, Jhenaidah	Jul '13	SCR	Atiar Rahman, USA
279	Kotchandpur Girls High School	Kotchandpur, Jhenaidah	Jul '13	SCR	Atiar Rahman, USA
280	Doulatpur High school	Patiya, Chittagong.	Jul '13	SCR	Md. Affan Kajmi
281	Trimohini Girls High School	Keshabpur, Jessore	Jul '13	CLC	Tahsin Askar and SpandaanB, USA
282	Baisa-Chandpur Secondary School	Keshabpur, Jessore	Jul '13	CLC	Tahsin Askar and SpandaanB, USA
283	Pungali Model High School	Faridpur, Pabna	Jul '13	CLC	Tahsin Askar and SpandaanB, USA
284	Deara Secondary School	Kalaroa, Satkhira	Jul '13	CLC	Tahsin Askar and SpandaanB, USA
285	Aminur Rahman College (Old Model)	Sadar, Magura	Jul '13	CLC	Anisa and Shah Yunus, USA
286	Faridpur Hitaishi Uccho Biddalay	Sadar, Faridpur	Jul '13	CLC	Anisa and Shah Yunus, USA
287	Ekhlaspur High School	Matlab North, Chandpur	Jul '13	CLC	Tahsin Askar and SpandaanB, USA
288	Bahirdia High School	Fakirhat, Bagerhat	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Muhammad Golam R, Shaikh, USA
289	BK Das Secondary Girls School	Sadar Satkhira	Jul '13	CLC	Tahsin Askar and SpandaanB, USA
290	Shatani Bhadra Collegiate School	Sadar Satkhira	Jul '13	CLC	Tahsin Askar and SpandaanB, USA
291	Samadar Para High School	Satkania, Chittagong	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Mohammed Kamal, USA
292	Atia Union Adarsha Girls's High School	Delduar, Tangail	Jul '13	CLC	Tahsin Askar and SpandaanB, USA
293	Yakubdondi H (Hulain) P (Piral) High school	Patiya, Chittagong	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	AZM Nasiruddin, Bangladesh
294	Palong Adarsha High School	Ukhuia, Cox's Bazar	Jul '13	SCR	Mr. Shafiul Alam
295	Noongola High School	Sadar, Bogra	Jul '13	SCR	Abu S Kamal, USA
296	Ullabari United High School	Rajoir, Madaripur	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Swapan Kumar Gayen, USA
297	Alhaj Fazal Ambia High School	Ramu, Cox's Bazar	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Tazin Shadid, USA
298	Mohammedpur High School	Raozan, Chittagong	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Jamal Uddin, Humayun Morsshed & Manir , USA
299	Addhapak Ali Ahamad High School,	Khilgaon, Dhaka	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Dr. Belayet H. Choudhury, USA
300	Haidgoan High School,	Patiya,Chittagong	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Dr. F.K' Shariff, Canada
301	A.S. Rahat Ali High School,	Patiya,Chittagong	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Dr. F.K' Shariff, Canada
302	Fatenagar S. Nessa N. Uddin Girls High School	Chandanish, Chittagong	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Dr. Faird Shariff, Canada
303	Morzal High School	Raipura, Narsindi	Jul '13	CLC	APW, Canada
304	Phakal Police Line School, Lalmonirhat	Sadar, Lalmonrhat	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Rotary Club of Dhaka, Bangladesh
305	Ranigonj High School	Kapasia, Gazipur	Jul '13	CLC	Sentrana, USA
306	Bhaberchar Wazir Ali High School	Gazaria, Munshigonj	Jul '13	CLC	Sentrana, USA
307	Dakkhin Jamsa High School	Singair, Manikgonj	Jul '13	CLC	Sentrana, USA
308	Vatpara NC Gupta High School	Panchdona, Narsindi	Jul '13	CLC	Sentrana, USA
309	Bagmara High School	Nababgonj, Dhaka	Jul '13	CLC	Sentrana, USA
310	Kuripaika High School	Sader, Patuakhali	Jul '13	CLC & SCR	Tahsin Askar and SpandaanB, USA
311	Imam Hossain High School	Nandail, Mymensingh	Jul '13	CLC	Tahsin Askar and SpandaanB, USA
312	Pordia High School	Sadar, Faridpur	Jul '13	CLC	Afroz Zaman, USA
313	Mahim Institution	Sadar, Faridpur	Jul '13	CLC	Afroz Zaman, USA

Computer Literacy and Education: Innovative ways to help rural school children

Lubna Kabir

During the busy days of an immigrant life in the US, I'd occasionally think, "How can I participate in some level of development work for our homeland, Bangladesh." This was not an uncommon question amongst those of us who grew up in Bangladesh and then moved to receive higher education in US and work abroad, and wanted to participate in some social charitable work. The majority of us fall into the category of making donation and/or zakat in the form of financial assistance to poor families who we heard about from a close relative, donation of clothes or basic food material to the beggars near our residence in Dhaka or big cities. While this type of handout is essential it really does not result in a productive sustainable activities. We are helping people in a day-to-day basis but not ultimately contributing to a better lifestyle for them. Many of us have reservations on how to donate to a non-profit organization in Bangladesh as there are concerns of transparency or accountability of the funds.

Fortunately in 2004 I heard about the Volunteer Association of Bangladesh (VAB)'s Computer Literacy Program (CLP). VAB has a chapter in New Jersey, USA (VABNJ). The majority of the members were former BUET graduates. CLP had an unique proposition: to fund centers that provide computers and information technology in secondary schools for under privilege students in the towns and villages of Bangladesh. The organization trains two teachers in each institute, and regularly visits the schools to assess progress, service the computers, and provide overall assurance regarding the programs to the donors. Donors can provide funds for computers in a specific school or give general funds for any school in the country. I immediately liked the idea and decided to fund the costs for a center at *Bagerhat Bohumukhi Madhomik Biddyaloy* or Bagerhat Highschool in the name of my late father, Dr. Humayun Kabir (MBBS, FRCS). My father and his brothers had all attended this institute. My aunt, Monira Haque, PhD, decided to fund a center in the Bagerhat public library. We were among the initial group of donors for the CLP program.

CLP works closely with D.Net in Bangladesh. As of March 2011, there were over 240 centers in 51 districts with over 300 teachers trained and over 50,000 students who had completed hands-on courses and received certificates. It should be noted 49% of the students are female and 75% of the centers are located in rural areas.

Over the last seven years, VABNJ and D.Net regularly published annual reports and provided detailed description of the program to all the donors. An annual dinner is held in the Rutgers University campus (in New Jersey) where key issues of computer literacy and education are discussed, and videos of the centers and students are shown. Administrative cost is kept low because most people volunteer their time. The organization has gone through all the necessary requirement to become a registered non-profit organization in the USA, so that the donations can be tax deducted by the donors. This is an additional benefit as individual donations or donations to Bangladesh based charities or personal charitable works (such as donation to own village school or poor families) is not eligible for US tax deduction.

The success of CLP, has attracted Microsoft Southeast Asia to implement its CLICK (Community for Learning, Information, Communication) program at 13 rural locations. Here the young adults are receiving communication and job training with advanced computers.

I visited my father's town, Bagerhat in December 2011 – the last time I'd visited I was 14 years old. School exams and classes were over, and it was late afternoon on a very cold day when I took a rickshaw

with my aunt and cousin to Bagerhat Highschool. The Headmaster, assistant Headmaster, the Computer teacher and few others held an intimate warm reception for me. A young student helped the computer teacher to decorate the classroom and put up welcome signs. The Computer teacher had arranged delicious array of food and we had a constructive discussion.

I learned about the rich history of the school, which was established in 1878 and about the reunion held in June 2011. The Headmaster gave me copy of the Reunion publication, a very well written piece that had essays of former students who later earned graduate and post-graduate degrees in the country and abroad. However, as wealthier and more educated families migrated to the larger cities and private schools opened up even in Bagerhat, it is apparent the old Bagerhat High school no longer had the same pedigree it once had.

The young student at the computer center mentioned while they are happy with the 6 desktop computers at the center, they would like the computers to be upgraded. And the Computer teacher mentioned that she's studied about Smart classrooms and would like to get additional donations so that she could have a Smart classroom. She smiled and said she very much liked her job. A few months after my trip, I donated funds to set up the Smart classroom.

I left *Bagerhat Bohumukhi Madhomik Biddyaloy* feeling grateful to VABNJ, it was because of their well planned and executed program, that I could play a small but important role in developing Bagerhat, the town of my grandfather and father.

The majority of donors to VABNJ and D.Net are Bangladeshis who live in US. My purpose in writing this article is to encourage all Bangladeshis to consider participating in Computer Literacy Program. You can get an overview of the program by visiting www.vabonline.org/vabnj. The website is an excellent place to read about VAB's mission, history, see details of many programs, watch the video of the school children and gain a comprehensive understanding of the institution.

Lubna Kabir is a Director of PricewaterhouseCoopers in Abu Dhabi and calls Edison NJ home

Dewan Shahnaz Khan, M. D.

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Amin	Samiul	Parlin	NJ
Amin	Shahina Amin (Jucy)	Cedar Falls	IA
Amrita	Jasia Ahmed	Parlin	NJ
Anam	Mohammad	Kendal Park	NJ
Anam	Sadrul	Kinnelon	NJ
Anwar	Mehdi	Storrs	CT
Arefin	Dewan Shamsul	Piscataway	NJ
Arshad	Hosne (Tinku)		NJ
Ashraf	Syed	Kendall Park	NJ
Asjad	Moinuddin	Troy	MI
Awwal	Mohammad	Monmouth JCT	NJ
Azad	Abdul K.	East Greenbush	NY
Azam	Mohammad	Yardville	NJ
Azam	Shafiul	Matawan	NJ
Azmy	Mia	Skillman	NJ
Bagchi	Amitabha	Manalapan	NJ
Baidyaroy	Suprasad	Princeton	NJ
Bakar	S.K.	New York	NY
Bakar	Samsul	New York	NY
Bakar	Sermina	New York	NY
Banerjee	Arjit	Morristown	NJ
Bari	Raihana		NY

Patrons of Computer Literacy Program (2013)

Last Name	First Name or Company	City	St
Bashar	Habibul	Lefinztar	MA
Begum	Momataz	Flemington	NJ
Begum	Monowara	Tappan	NY
Begum	Sultana	San Jose	CA
Bhowmik	Arun K.	East Brunswick	NJ
Bhowmik	Arun K.	East Brunswick	NJ
Bhowmik	Dulal	NY City	
Bhuyian	Abdul Aziz		NY
Bhuyian	Golam Farooque	Sayreville	NJ
Billah	Kashfia	Princeton	NJ
Billah	Motasim	Edison	NJ
Billah	Zafar	Kendal Park	NJ
Biswas	Jaishree	Edison	NJ
Bodapati	Sudhakar	Edison	NJ
Burhan	Mohammad	Bridgewater	NJ
Carroll	Maureen A.	Flushing	NY
Chandra	Rajat	Boonton	NJ
Chaudhury	Azam MD	Edison	NJ
Chaudhury	Seema	Nanuet	NY
Choudhury	Ali Azam	Portsmouth	VA
Choudhury	Arham	Bellnorore??	NY
Choudhury	Belayet	Montgomery	NJ
Chowdhury	Anir	Marlboro	NJ
Chowdhury	Azam	Monmouth JCT	NJ
Chowdhury	Dalia	Cranbury	NJ
Chowdhury	Farooque Azam	North Brunswick	NJ
Chowdhury	Fazlur R.	Leesburg	VA
Chowdhury	Fazlur Rahman	Bardonia	NY
Chowdhury	Ibrul	Philadelphia	PA
Chowdhury	Lutful	Westbury	NY
Chowdhury	Mahfuz R.	Uniondale	NY
Chowdhury	Mahmood	Rockford	IL
Chowdhury	Masud	Aurora	IL
Chowdhury	Mir H.	Wayne	NJ
Chowdhury	Munir	Hackettstown	NJ
Chowdhury	Muzibul Gani	Glastonbury	CT
Chowdhury	Naseem		AU
Chowdhury	Nizam		
Chowdhury	Reza		
Chowdhury	Rezbul	Arlington	MA
Chowdhury	Riaz	San Antonio	TX

Last Name	First Name or Company	City	St
Chowdhury	Shahed	Piscataway	NJ
Chowdhury	Shahriar	Plainsboro	NJ
Chowdhury	Shamsul	Naperville	IL
Chowdhury	Sharmin	Naperville	IL
Chowdhury	Waled H.	Bethpage	NY
Chowdhury	Zahanara	Hawthrone	NJ
Cohen	Todd	Freehold	NJ
Daley	Roshan Ara	Gaithersburg	MD
Das	Bidyut	Brooklyn	NY
Das	Santanu	Monroe	CT
Dasgupta	Anupam	Freehold	NJ
Davis	Theodore	Jersey City	NJ
Dr. Sharrif		Carlgary	AB
Esufzai	A. Rahman	Rutherford	NJ
Eva	Sakkar	West Chester	PA
Farooque	Mohammad	Marlboro	NJ
Farooque	Preeti	Marlboro	NJ
Farooque	Pue	Marlboro	NJ
Faroque	Sheikh	Atlantic City	NJ
Farouk	Bakhtier	Cherry Hill	NJ
Fayemi	A. Olusegun	White Plains	NY
Ferdous	Zannatul		PA
Feroz	Fatinaaz	Jackson Heights	NY
Ali	Milia	Arlington	VA
Gayen	Swapan Kumar	Marlboro	NJ
Gayen	Tapan K.	Greenville	NC
Gazi	Golam	Glastonbury	CT
Ghaffar	Mohammed	New York	NY
Ghosal	Subir		
Goswami	Ganesh G.	Fairlawn	NJ
Hafiz	Mohammad A.	Toms River	NJ
Hai	Abdul	Englishtown	NJ
Hai	AKM	Harrison	NJ
Haider	Mohammed O.	Somerset	NJ
Hajra	Nurullah	Marlboro	NJ
Halim	Qazi	New Hyde Park	NY
Haque	Emdadul	Port Orange	FL
Haque	Hafizul	Bridgewater	NJ
Haque	Mohammad Reza	Randolph	NJ
Haque	Mohammad S.	Houston	TX
Haque	Monira	Edison	NJ

Patrons of Computer Literacy Program (2013)

Last Name	First Name or Company	City	St
Haque	Nazmul	Old Bridge	NJ
Haque	Tab	Bridgewater	NJ
Harjani	Disha	Piscataway	NJ
Harun	Yeakub A.	Jackson Heights	NY
Hasan	Moinul	Qatar	UAE
Hasan	Rashid	Duluth	MN
Hasan	M. Sayeed	Marlboro	NJ
Hasan	Shameem	Hockessin	DE
Hasan	Syed	Naperville	IL
Hasan	Ziaul	Sayerville	NJ
Hashem	Mohammed	Brooklyn	NY
Hasib	Rukhsana	Holland	PA
Hassan	Jamiul	East Brunswick	NJ
Hassan	Mahmud	East Brunswick	NJ
Hassan	Sakib	Hillsborough	NJ
Hassan	Zahidul	Lowell	MA
Helaly	Mian	Skillman	NJ
Helaly	Shabbir	Skillman	NJ
Hoque	Azharul	Matawan	NJ
Hoque	Ekramul	West Babylon	NY
Hoque	Mahbubul	Bel Air	MD
Hoque	Kashfia		
Hoque	Nabila	Randolph	NJ
Hoque	Nasima	Randolph	NJ
Hoque	Sagar	Randolph	NJ
Hora	Sukanta D.	Paterson	NJ
Hossain	Akhtar	New Hyde Park	NY
Hossain	Anjum	Pittsburgh	PA
Hossain	Ashfaq	Berekely Heights	NJ
Hossain	Hamida	Middletown	NJ
Hossain	Iftekhar	Princeton Jct	NJ
Hossain	Khurshid (Lucy)	Middletown	NJ
Hossain	Mehreen	Middletown	NJ
Hossain	Mohammad	Exton	PA
Hossain	Monowar	Middletown	NJ
Hossain	Mosaddeque	Kew Garden	NY
Hossain	Naznin	Hillsborough	NJ
Hossain	Sadruk	New Hyde Park	NY
Hossain	Selina	Matawan	NJ
Hossain	Shohrab	Corona	NY
Hossain	Talat	Marlboro	NJ

Last Name	First Name or Company	City	St
Hossain	Zaki	Long Island	NY
Huda	Shamsul	Marlboro	NJ
Huda	Sharin	Marlboro	NJ
Huq	Abhik A.	Lawrenceville	NJ
Huq	Abu Shamsul	Plainsboro	NJ
Huq	M. Shamsul	Howell	NJ
Huq	Mohammad Altaful	Piscataway	NJ
Huq	Mozzammel	Queens	NY
Huq	Muhammed	Wall	NJ
Huq	Rubab Ferdous	Troy	MI
Huq	Shah M. Ikramul	Edison	NJ
Huq	Sirajul	Ocean City	NJ
Huq	Syed Rezwan		
Huque	Khondakar Azizul	West Babylon	NY
Husain	Murad	Murray Hill	NJ
Husain	Zareen (Seema)		
Hussain	Iqbal	Short Hills	NJ
Hussain	Iffat	Monmouth JCT	NJ
Hussain	Mohammed Talat	Marlboro	NJ
Hussain	Musaddeq	Princeton	NJ
Hussain	Nayeem	Monmouth JCT	NJ
Hussain	Rahat	Hicksville	NY
Hussain	Talat	Marlboro	NJ
Iftikhar	Ali	North Bellmore	NY
Islam	Aminul	Edison	NJ
Islam	Faizul	Houston	TX
Islam	Mazharul	East Brunswick	NJ
Islam	Md. Rezwan	Lombard	IL
Islam	Mohamed R.	Dayton	NJ
Islam	Mohammed	Morris Plains	NJ
Islam	Muhammad	South Windsor	CT
Islam	Naushad	Kendall Park	NJ
Islam	Nazrul	Dixhill	NY
Islam	Seraj	Yonkers	NY
Islam	Sharmila	Aberdeen	NJ
Islam	Sohel	Bethel	CT
Islam	Syful	White Plains	NY
Islam	Tarikul	Lawrenceville	NJ
Ismat	Jahan	Naperville	IL
Jahan	Kauser	Sickerville	NJ
Jalal	Syed	Leonia	NJ

Patrons of Computer Literacy Program (2013)

Last Name	First Name or Company	City	St
Jamil	Arshad	Boonton	NJ
Kabir	Bobby	Shepherds Town	WV
Kabir	Iqbal	Aurora	IL
Kabir	Lubna	Bridgewater	NJ
Kabir	Mohammed G.	Parsipanny	NJ
Kabir	Nahid	Morristown	NJ
Kabir	Tito	Bolingbrook	IL
Kabir	Zoghlul	Morristown	NJ
Kadakia	Shimul	Basking Ridge	NJ
Kader	Abdul	Ozone Park	NY
Kadir	Nowreen		
Kalam	Muhammad	Plano	TX
Kamal	Abu Sayeed	Woodbridge	NJ
Kamal	Murtaza	Pueblo	CO
Kamal	Mostafa	Freehold	NJ
Kamal	Mustafa	Livingston	NJ
Kamal	Sheikh	Wallington	NJ
Kar	Amalendu	Burlington Twnsp	NJ
Karim	Ahsanul	East Windsor	NJ
Karim	M.R.	Wayside	NJ
Karim	Mohammad	Pleasantville	NY
Kazi	Abdul	Ellicott City	MD
Kazi	Abedin		NJ
Khair	Mahmud	Aurora	IL
Khan	Afzal	Dayton	NJ
Khan	Amzad	Edison	NJ
Khan	Dewan S.	Marlboro	NJ
Khan	Eakub	Jackson Heights	NY
Khan	Emdad	San Jose	CA
Khan	Ferdous	College Point	NY
Khan	Imran		NY
Khan	Mahbubur	Nee Hyde Park	NY
Khan	Mahmudul Huq	Towaco	NJ
Khan	Monica	Edison	NJ
Khan	Naila	South Orange	NJ
Khan	Nargis		
Khan	Nilufa N.	Edison	NJ
Khan	Romel		NJ
Khan	Subarna	Edison	NJ
Khan	Wahid S.	Belleville	NJ
Khandker	Rezaul	Phoenixville	PA
Khondker	Sufian	Holliswood	NY
Khosnu	Esha	Orange	NJ
Laskey	Richard		
Lodhi	Tajul	Edison	NJ
Madhwadia	Girish		
Maglio	Frank	North Brunswick	NJ
Mahmood	Burhan	Bridgewater	NJ
Mahmood	Shah Jahan	Washington DC	
Mahmood	Subrina	Neptune	NJ
Mainuddin	Mohammed	Lodi	NJ
Majumdar	Papia	Parlin	NJ
Mamun	Al	Marlboro	NJ
Mamun	Kazi	Belle Mead	NJ
Malik	Anjum	Middletown	NJ
Maniky	Mian	Brooklyn	NY
Maniky	Zinat	Brooklyn	NY
Mansor	Azra	Fort Lee	NJ
Mansur	Iqbal	West Chester	PA
Masud	Abu	Wichita	KS
Mate	Neil	Brooklyn	NY
Mathbor	Golam	Neptune	NJ
Melow	David, J.	Jacksonheights	NY
Mesbahuddir	Mirza	Woodside	NY
Mia	Azmy		NJ
Mohiuddin	Mohammad	Marlboro	NJ
Mohsen	Farrukh	Cranbury	NJ
Mohsen	Paulash	Cranbury	NJ
Mohsen	Pia	Cranbury	NJ
Momin	Mohammed		CT
Mowla	Robbie	Farmingdale	NJ
Mukul	Chowdhury	New York	NY
Munir	Syed	Edison	NJ
Musaddeq	Hussain	South Brunswick	NJ
Muttalib	Khandker A.	Gainesville	FL
Nabi	Mush	Cranbury	NJ
Nabi	Nuran	Cranbury	NJ
Nabic	Abu	Gathersburg	MD
Nag	Jayanta K.	Cheshire	CT
Nahar	Nurun	Marlboro	NJ
Nakib	Evan	Ruston	LA
Naser	Kamrul	Somerset	NJ

Patrons of Computer Literacy Program (2013)

Last Name	First Name or Company	City	St
Nayeem	AFM Abdun	Glastonbury	CT
Noaz	Golam G.	Ocean	NJ
O'Neil	Eugene	Cranford	NJ
Pagoumain	David	Edison	NJ
Park	William	Astoria	NY
Parvin	Tahmina	Lancaster	PA
Pasha	Rafique	Plano	TX
Passi	Rakesh	East Brunswick	NJ
Pathan	Aftab	Piscataway	NJ
Paul	Pradip	Cranford	NJ
Prabhakar	N.D.	Marlboro	NJ
Pramanik	Birendra	Parsipanny	NJ
Putul	Roksana	Morganville	NJ
Quabili	Ahmadur	Houston	TX
Quaderi	Masurur Ali	Jamaica	NY
Quaderi	Serajjus	Marlboro	NJ
Quadry	Mian	Brooklyn	NY
Quazi	Shahreen	Boston	MA
Rab	Nasreen		BD
Rafiq	Shuvo	Princeton	NJ
Rahim	Abdur	Brooklyn	NY
Rahman	Abidur	Augusta	MI
Rahman	Anisur	Mendham	NJ
Rahman	ATR	Irvington	NY
Rahman	Azizur	Yorktown Heights	NY
Rahman	Dewan	Ewing	NJ
Rahman	Lutfur	Ocean	NJ
Rahman	M. Dalil	Flemington	NJ
Rahman	Mahfuzar	Jersey City	NJ
Rahman	Mizanur	Lake Success	NY
Rahman	Mohammad	Dallas	TX
Rahman	Mohammad Aminur	Jersey City	NJ
Rahman	Mohammad Habibur	Jamaica	NY
Rahman	Mohammed	North Bellmore	NJ
Rahman	Monjour	Tuxedo Park	NY
Rahman	Moshiur	Marlboro	NJ
Rahman	Muhammad	Brooklyn	NY
Rahman	Muhit	Cincinatti	OH
Rahman	Mushfiqur	Melbourne	AU
Rahman	Pavel	Toronto	ON
Rahman	Rasheq		NY

Last Name	First Name or Company	City	St
Rahman	Rummana	Piscataway	NJ
Rahman	Sayedur	Bristol	CT
Rahman	Shahidur	Ozone Park	NY
Rahman	Sheikh	Wharton	NJ
Rahman	Shelly	Broomall	PA
Rahman	Siddiqur	Lawrenceville	NJ
Rahman	SK Mafizur	Bronx	NY
Rahman	Sk Ziaur	South Windsor	NJ
Rahman	Syed Munir	Edison	NJ
Rahman	T. Mohammad	Dallas	NJ
Rahman	Waliur	Lakewood	NJ
Rahman	Wasim		
Rahman	Rafique Khan	West Orange	NJ
Rahman	Shahidur R.		NY
Rashid	Abdur	Lawrenceville	NJ
Rashid	Aminur	Howell	NJ
Rashid	Harunor		
Rashid	Malik Mahbubur	New Haven	CT
Roy	Ajit	Cranford	NJ
Reed	Peter		
Riad	Aziz	Bartlett	IL
Ripon	Nazrul Islam	Bayshore	NY
Roy	Jiten		
Roy	Kiran Kumar	Queens	NY
Roy	Sumit	Bridgewater	NJ
Rozario	Liberatus D.	Princeton JCT.	NJ
Ryhan	Ismail	Toms River	NJ
Sabri	M. Zaki	Brooklyn	NY
Sahjalal	Mohammad	Kew Garden	NY
Saif	Muhammad Taher A.	Champaign	IL
Salahudin	Shahriar	Mechanicsburg	PA
Salam	Monzura	Aurora	IL
Saleh	Javed	Skillman	NJ
Salekin	Serajus	Marlboro	NJ
Samad	Anwar	New York	NY
Sarkar	Arun	Dayton	NJ
Sarker	Abdul Qayyum	Colonia	NJ
Sarker	Samir Kanti	New Hyde Park	NY
Sattar	Wasif	Monroe Township	NJ
Sayeed	Fakrul	Voorhees	NJ
Sayeed	Hasan	Marlboro	NJ

Patrons of Computer Literacy Program (2013)

Last Name	First Name or Company	City	St
Sayeed	Zulfiquar	East Windsor	NJ
Sen	Shyamal	Dayton	NJ
Sengupta	Ashim	Califon	NJ
Serazi	Masum	Edison	NJ
Shadid	Tazin	Seatle	WA
Shahabuddin	Miah	Lincroft	NJ
Shahriar	Salauddin	Harrisburg	PA
Shaikh	Badrud	Jamaica	NY
Shaikh	Muhammad G.R.	Middletown	NY
Shajahan	Shaju	Cleveland	OH
Shajahan	Sharmin	Chicago	OH
Shakil	Sheikh M.	Old Bridge	NJ
Shamim	Noor	Milford	PA
Shamsuddin	Abul	Howell	NJ
Shamsuddin	Shirin	Howell	NJ
Shamsun	Farooque	Marlboro	NJ
Shekalus	William	Mount Kisco	NY
Shurawardi	Ghulam	Coltsneck	NJ
Shyed	Khondaker	Neptune	NJ
Siddique	Shamsul		NY
Siddique	Yousuf	Greenvale	NY
Siddiqui	Faruq Mahmud Anam	Wallingford	PA
Siddiqui	Kaihan	Cliffside Pk	NJ
Siddiqui	Mahmud	Lawrenceville	NJ
Siddiqui	Reshmi	Lawrenceville	NJ
Sikdar	Abdus	North Bellmore	NY
Sikdar	Hironmony	Voorhees	NJ
Khan	Sitara		
Soni	Robindra		
Sultan	Alam	Holmdel	NJ
Sultan	Idris	Carrolton	TX
Sultana	Shirin	Cranbury	NJ
Sultana	Shirin	Plainsboro	NJ
Syed	N. Zaman		
Taher	Muhammed	Champaign	IL
Talukdar	Shamsuzzoha	Holmdel	NJ
Tarafder	Habib	Edison	NJ
Tariq	Quazi Al	Middletown	NY
Tasneem	Sarah	Storrs	CT
Toha	Abul K.M.	Los Angels	CA
Uddin	Mohammad Abbas	Voorhees	NJ

Last Name	First Name or Company	City	St
Uddin	Moin	Edison	NJ
Uddin	Nancy	Tinton Falls	NJ
Uddin	Shams	Trenton	NJ
Ullah	Saadi	Randolph	NJ
Ullah	Zafar	San Jose	CA
Wahab	Atiya	Wrightstown	NJ
Warsi	Ghulam	Randolph	NJ
Wood	Deborah	White Plains	NY
Yunus	Shah	Pittsburgh	PA
Yusuf	Mohammed	Edison	NJ
Zaman	Farhat	Hicksville	NY
Zaman	KBM	Cleveland	OH
Zaman	Khairul	North Royalton	OH
Zaman	Mohammad	Marlboro	NJ
Zaman	Mohammad. Q	Elmont	NY
Zaman	Sabrina	Naperville	IL
Zaman	Syed	Morganville	NJ
Zeb	Afnan (Aditi)	Marlboro	NJ
Zevallos	Manuel	Woodhaven	NY
Ziauddin	Abu	Somerset	NJ
	Horizon Staffing Services	East Hartford	CT
	IH Engineers	Princeton	NJ
	Imdad Sitara Foundation	Saratoga	CA
	Inman Dental Care, PC	Edison	NJ
	Innovative Technology Solutions, In	South Plainfield	NJ
	KS Engineers	Newark	NJ
	Lata R. Shah	Edison	NJ
	Metlife Metroplois Financial Group	New York	NY
	Montgomery Driving School	North Brunswick	NJ
	NABIC	Oakridge	TN
	Napco LLC Operations Acct	Edison	NJ
	New York Mortgage Company	Jackson Heights	NY
	NYMC	New York	NY
	Our House Restaurant	Farmingdale	NJ
	Salam & Associates	Brooklyn	NY
	SBLI USA Mutual Life Ins.Co., Inc	New York	NY
	Sentrana	Washington D.C.	US
	Shalimar Restaurant	Atlantic City	NJ
	Sign Media International	Woodside	NY

Patrons of Computer Literacy Program (2013)

Last Name	First Name or Company	City	St
	Solomon Insurance Agency	New York	NY
	Spandaan_B	Santa Clara	CA
	SSNT Real Estate & Mgt Inc.	Jamaica	NY
	Terry Liebman, Dental Excellence	Brooklyn	NY
	The Morton Foundation	Manhattan	NY
	The Print Shoppe	Aberdeen	NJ
	Todd A. Cohen, ESQ	Freehold	NJ
	Unique Dental Care	Jackson Heights	NY
	UTC Associates	New York	NY
	Wells Fargo Home Mortgage	Jackson Heights	NY
	West Side Medical Center	New York	NY
	Western Capital Mortgage, Inc.	Woodside	NY
	Worldwide Travel Services	New York	NY
	Y & J Realty	Astoria	NY

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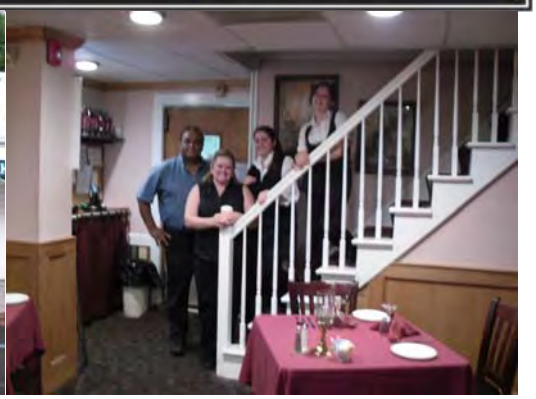

Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB): Focusing on High School Education

The media has been highlighting a series of setbacks in Bangladesh in recent months: political and religious violence, accidents in garment factories, cyclones, etc. In all this "doom and gloom" one "little" news piece was drowned out: a record number of young men and women have taken the high school graduating exam, known as the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam, and a record number have now graduated, setting a record high success rate. Only **true** leaders of the nation, planners, entrepreneurs and social thinkers realize the significance of such success and its potential economic and social impact, in both the short and the long term. Despite all sorts of negative blemishes, the Bangladesh economy is growing, and at a healthy pace, which surpasses that of most other Third World nations. Poverty is being eradicated at a record rate, and society is improving in a number of areas, with a higher Human Development Index than many developing countries. It is the robust and dynamic private sector along with the hardworking and dedicated labor force that is behind this advancement and it is high school education specifically that contributes most in preparing the nation's manpower for entrepreneurship and productive labor. While primary education builds the foundation, secondary education empowers young men and women for useful participation in their socio-economic endeavors, both individually and collectively.

Mr. Shaju A. Shahjahan, Donor of VAB, distributing educational materials, as part of VAB high school scholarship.

This central role of secondary education was the preoccupation of some non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) in the U.S. in the 1990s. They also noted the distressing lack of interest of both the public and the private sectors in spreading secondary education. Consequently, they wished to "invest" financial resources, expertise and labor in secondary education in Bangladesh, and thus a charity organization, Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB), was born, led by a retired senior United Nations official, Dr. A T Rafiqur Rahman, on the Victory Day of Bangladesh in 1998. Credit their visionary ideas about their Motherland's socio-economic development, their awareness of economic history of developed nations, their knowledge of the utilization of high school-educated manpower in the emerging economies like China, South Korea, Singapore, etc., or their consciousness about the cost-effectiveness of development projects, they were among only a few who were ready to focus their attention on high school education, while other NRBs were finding other separate avenues to spend their remittance dollars. Later on, many non-Bangladeshi Americans joined the efforts of the founding expatriates to promote the cause of VAB.

Seven out of ten people in Bangladesh live in rural areas. Poverty, unemployment, underemployment and lack of opportunities for modern-day economic activities are of abject magnitude in rural Bangladesh. There is a real fear among the NRBs of VAB that the extreme level of deprivation may lead to all kinds of untoward developments in Bangladeshi society. Concomitantly, there is also the reality of the urban-rural divide in socio-economic development and its dire consequences (some of which were evident during the recent spate of violence). A publication of VAB, which includes an historical account of its inception and development,

makes it clear that the founding leaders of VAB were extremely concerned about these issues (please refer to *A Decade of Supporting Education to Reduce Poverty: A Better Life for the Poor in Bangladesh through Quality Education and Skill Training*). This concern led them to concentrate on spreading high school education throughout rural Bangladesh.

The programs gradually developed by VAB were dictated by the bottom-up needs of the rural high schools and the application of the crucial criterion of cost-effectiveness – the biggest bang for the remittance buck, so to speak. Poverty is unquestionably the greatest impediment to primary school graduates not entering high school. The premier program of VAB was the awarding of **scholarships** to children of rural poor families. VAB scholarships pay for all educational expenses. As such, scholarships not only make entering high school (at Grade VI) affordable, they also contribute to reducing the dropout rate once entry is achieved. Since graduation from high school is a crucial objective, the next program to be developed almost immediately after the scholarship program was the provision of **tutorial assistance** to examinees who took the high school graduating exam (SSC exam). Tutoring, free of cost, prepared these students for the national level exam, where the relatively affluent and better-tutored urban students dominate. High school education in Bangladesh is divided into two stages: Grades VI to VIII compose the junior secondary stage, while Grades IX and X compose the secondary stage (the third stage is the higher secondary stage composed of Grades XI and XII, which is traditionally taught in college). Bangladesh has recently introduced a national-level graduation exam at the end of Grade VIII, called the Junior Secondary Certificate (JSC) exam. Accordingly, VAB is also implementing a program of tutorial assistance to JSC examinees. In VAB's experience, rural young boys and girls do not get a good grounding in English and Math at the primary level, so they are apprehensive in entering high school at Grade VI, and even when they do so, they cannot cope and tend to drop out. To address this deficiency, in 2008 VAB introduced tutorial assistance to VIth Graders in English and Math.

Grade VI Tutoring

While tutorial assistance is a supplementary measure, it is classroom teaching that is the basic source of learning for the students. Quality teaching needs quality teachers. Of necessity, the next VAB program to be implemented was **teachers' training**. Poor rural teachers are brought to the capital city of Dhaka for high quality training for a week, all at VAB's cost. The training is a highly appreciated, much sought after program because it not only familiarizes rural teachers with the most effective pedagogical techniques, it also helps them master the ever-changing curriculum and syllabi which are usually geared to urban schools. As a result, their confidence is built. Headmasters of rural high schools in Bangladesh play a critical role in rural education: they develop, guide and manage education programs; maintain the link to the community; and, in general, they inspire the community to realize the value of education. Many rural communities in Bangladesh are not oriented towards education, and many families in these communities have never sent a child to primary school, let alone high school. To promote high school education in rural areas and to enhance its quality, VAB organizes a **headmasters' seminar** where they can

brainstorm about rural education, review existing VAB programs, suggest improvements on them and develop new programs for VAB's consideration.

Year	Scholarships		VIth Graders Tutored		SSC Examinees Tutored		Teachers Trained	
	Num.	Cum. Tot.	Num.	Cum. Tot.	Num.	Cum. Tot.	Num.	Cum Tot.
2000	100	100						
2001	237	337			37	37		
2002	190	527			44	81		
2003	210	737			58	139		
2004	410	1,147			77	216	33	33
2005	340	1,487			85	301	94	127
2006	460	1,947			680	981	115	242
2007	460	2,407			811	1,792	91	333
2008	580	2,987	1,273	1,273	474	2,266	70	403
2009	640	3,627	1,219	2,492	865	3,131	34	437
2010	990	4,617	2,407	4,899	1,227	4,358	81	518
2011	960	5,577	823	5,722	736	5,094	62	580
2012	1,385	6,962	1,756	7,478	1,960	7,054	86	666

Rural high schools in Bangladesh are also appallingly underequipped. This places rural students in a disadvantaged position. With a view to improving the students' learning environment, VAB donates books for school libraries, equipment for science laboratories and computers and accessories for computer classes. However, the high costs of equipment and appliances limit VAB's capability in expanding its **school improvement** program.

From the beginning of its operation in 2000 to the year 2012, VAB awarded high school scholarships to nearly 7,000 poor rural students, provided tutorial assistance to approximately 7,500 VIth Graders and more than 7,000 SSC examinees, trained close to 675 rural high school teachers, and provided books and equipment to 27 schools (see Table).

Cost-effectiveness has been a central criterion for VAB in both the development and execution of its programs. VAB chose to work with existing rural high schools rather than establishing its own schools because of the imperatives of this criterion. It is well established that in developing economies, dollar-for-dollar local services and local goods with local inputs yield a higher value than goods and services with imported inputs. It is easily observed that all of VAB's programs are local service-intensive; VAB has kept any programs requiring imports to a minimum.

Having more than a decade of experience has led VAB to realize that, with nominal additions to total costs, it can carry out certain programs the added value of which is significant. In fact, taken together, these newly-added programs, combined with the existing ones, have the potential of transforming a rural school into a quality institution, which then becomes endowed with qualifications that are of a permanent nature. Such qualifications enable the school to provide quality education to its current student body; future populations of students will also benefit from these qualifications. One set of these programs is inspirational for the students – they feel empowered. A second set is inspirational to the teachers and school authorities – the school itself is empowered.

In addition to existing programs on scholarships and tutoring, **Student Empowerment Programs** include Merit Awards, Participation in Competitions in Games, Literary and Cultural Activities, National Olympiads in Science, Mathematics and Computers, and Lectures by Persons held in Deep Esteem by the youth of Bangladesh. In addition to programs on teachers' training, headmasters' seminars and school improvement, **School Empowerment Programs** include Promotion of Leadership by the Schools for Societal Programs and Programs Linking the Schools with the Parents, the Community and Former Students. In this new approach the schools

are asked to come up with a Five Year Plan of Improvement. The plan is then refined and updated as the evaluation of the execution of the programs proceeds. A distinctive feature of this approach is that the schools own the programs and provide part of the funding for them. This ensures commitment and accountability while providing a sound basis for the continuation of the empowerment programs without the assistance of VAB.

The effectiveness of VAB's programs is assessed in a variety of ways. In Bangladesh, and more so in rural Bangladesh, it is difficult for impoverished families to continue their children's education through high school mainly because of lack of affordability. The dropout rate is staggeringly high. VAB has been successful in reducing this rate. An independent research study has shown that the dropout rate in VAB schools was lower than the national rate by almost 10 percentage points. The longer a school has been under VAB programs, the greater is the reduction in the dropout rate in that school, with some schools reducing the dropout rate by as much as one-third. The success rate as regards the SSC exam is another measure. In the last few years, the pass rate of VAB schools has been consistently higher than the national average rate, by 1 to 5 Percentage points (see Table below). These are remarkable accomplishments considering that the national average is dominated by better-equipped urban schools, with better trained teachers, and more affluent students.

Pass Rate in SSC Exam: VAB Schools and National Average

SSC Pass Rate	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Average of VAB Rural Schools	75.95%	72.10%	82.22%	86.19%	89.41%	90.04%
National Average	70.81%	67.41%	78.19%	82.31%	86.37%	89.03%

VAB is carrying out a research study to find out what its scholarship recipients do after high school graduation. A preliminary study shows that almost all of the successful graduates go on to college study (Grades XI and XII in Bangladesh). VAB itself has a **college scholarship** program. Up until recently, nearly 60% of the successful VAB high school scholars pursued college education under that program. The remaining 40% pursued college education with family and local support. The effectiveness of VAB's high school programs is thus demonstrated by the fact that children of poor rural families who did not have any hope of education beyond the primary level were able to pursue college education. In the Bangladesh economy, college education ensures gainful employment that lifts up the standard of living of the whole impoverished family.

Complementary to the secondary education programs, VAB also has skill training programs. These essentially focus on computer literacy under the Computer Literacy Program (CLP) of VAB-New Jersey. This magazine has separate articles on the CLP.

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PLEASE CALL/CONTACT:

Mizan Rahman

Tel : (516) 326-7035
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