



Report on Project Country Partners Meeting with Policy Makers

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Title

Project Country Partners Meeting with Policy Makers

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Abstract

This report outlines the two meetings held with Bangladesh CPIs' meeting with policy makers.

Meeting Highlights

The Bangladesh Country Partner Institutions - BRAC University and D.Net - held three separate meetings with policy makers during the months of May, June, and September of 2007. During the first meeting, on E-Governance Interoperability Framework (e-GIF) organized the ICT Task Force of the Chief Advisor's Office (the Prime Minister's Office during elected government tenure), BRAC University had the opportunity to brief the policy makers regarding the various activities undertaken through the PAN Localization Project. The second meeting was organized by Microsoft Corporation as a roundtable discussion to introduce the various challenges and potential solutions for E-Governance in Bangladesh. The third meeting was organized by D.Net, as part of a training seminar on content development methodologies. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders in the NGO sector, as well as by a representative from the Chief Advisor's ICT Task Force. D.Net and BRAC University provided an overview of the various activities undertaken as part of the PanL10n project during this meeting. BRAC University has also held regular meetings with Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), the apex computer body in the government, to discuss various localization issues. The following table summarizes the various meetings held, and the following section lists the key issues discussed in these meetings.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Organizer</i>	<i>Date and Location</i>
e-GIF	Chief Advisor's ICT Task Force and UNDP, Bangladesh	May 17, 2007; UNDP
E-Governance	Microsoft	June 17, 2007; Radisson Hotel
Content Development	D.Net	August 26, 2007; D.Net

E-GIF meeting

BRAC University provided a brief overview of its activities, with some pointers on how its outputs may be used in building the language-processing infrastructure for the e-Governance framework in Bangladesh. The encoding conversation toolset developed under PanL10n Phase 1 for example will be an essential tool in converting legacy documents; the TTS being developed during Phase 2 will be essential in tackling print disability; the OCR would potentially be used to digitize pre-digital government publications.

E-Governance meeting

This meeting was essentially a follow-up of the May 17, 2007 meeting, where the discussants included some experts from abroad with experience in developing local language capable e-Gov frameworks. Many of the same challenges, with potential solutions were discussed.

Content development needs

D.Net organized a daylong workshop seminar on Content Development, and as part of the workshop, invited many of the key stakeholders from the NGO and public sector. BRAC University provided an overview of the technology-related work undertaken by the PanL10n project, with D.Net providing an overview of the content being developed under the project.