

Welcome Speech of Mr. Md. Sabur Khan, President, DCCI in "Industry-Academy Dialogue: 21st Century ICT Graduates" jointly organized by DCCI and CTO Forum. Date: 28 July, 2013, Time: 2:30 p.m. Venue: DCCI Auditorium (5th Floor), 65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka 1000

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Professor Dr. A K Azad Chowdhury, Chairman (State Minister), University Grants Commission, Bangladesh and Chief Guest of today's program;

Mr. Nazrul Islam Khan, Secretary, Ministry of ICT, GoB, Special Guest of today's dialogue;

Professor Dr. M. Lutfar Rahman, Vice Chancellor, Daffodil International University

Mr. Tapan Kanti Sarker, President, CTO Forum;

Distinguished Key note presenter, Prof. Dr. Syed Akhter Hossain, Head, Department of CSE, Daffodil International University,

Distinguished faculty members,

My Colleagues in the Board of Directors

Friends from the Media both Print and Electronic;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Assalamu A'laikum and a very good afternoon,

On behalf of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and on my own behalf I would like to welcome you all to the dialogue on "Industry-Academy Dialogue: 21st Century ICT Graduates".

I have the honor and privilege to cordially welcome our today's Chief Guest, Professor Dr. A K Azad Chowdhury, Chairman (State Minister), University Grants Commission, Bangladesh for attending on today's dialogue.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to our special guest Mr. Nazrul Islam Khan, Secretary, Ministry of ICT, GoB.

I specially thank to CTO Forum to organize such well-timed dialogue event jointly with DCCI.

The main objective of this dialogue is to match academic curricula with industrial requirement in ICT sector of Bangladesh.

Distinguished Gathering;

Information Technology in Bangladesh has crossed a long road over the last few decades. Young entrepreneurs are one of major driving forces for growing ICT industry of Bangladesh. In recent years many ICT expert especially young graduates returned from abroad after finishing their education and have started their IT ventures. Despite various global and local challenges, these young IT entrepreneurs have done remarkable progress. According to a survey conducted by Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), there are over 800 registered software and ITES companies in Bangladesh and few hundred of unregistered small and home-based IT ventures doing their business in both local and

international markets. The total industry size is estimated to be around US\$ 325 million. Approximately 35,000 professionals, majority IT and other graduates, are employed in the industry.

Distinguished Guests,

In transforming Bangladesh into 'Digital Bangladesh' ICT is playing the most important role. We all know IT industry have not flourished according to its potential. The export value is still meager compared to other outsourcing countries in the region. As reasons behind this performance, IT industry experts have identified a number of problems. These are: shortage of qualified IT resources; lack of proper infrastructure; absence of international branding & marketing activities etc.

Considering job market for ICT graduates of Bangladesh we observed that existing academy curricula fails to address the demand for ICT industry. In general ICT education allows students acquire technical skills in identifying the perceptual issues. In most of the cases curricula development gives attention to more on academic concentration rather than in developing industry-academic based curricula. Existing curriculum also lacks right direction of skills which fails to generate employment in ICT industries of the country. It should be properly addressed in the academic curricula development for ICT education.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The use of technology in the field of education is becoming indispensable worldwide. Information technology is capable of capturing a student's attention through visual representation of concepts as well as interactive activities. In Bangladesh a lot of progress has been made in the field of E-education. Multimedia classrooms, digital contents and teacher training together will improve overall quality of learning in education by promoting effective and participatory learning. Considering the advantage of using mobile technology the education has been improved for example BBC Janala uses mobile to enable millions of people in Bangladesh to learn English in a simple and affordable way.

Distinguished key note speaker,

Analyzing the present scenario of ICT industry of Bangladesh we have observed huge demand and supply gap of ICT graduates. It is very unfortunate that despite of the huge demand for ICT graduates in the industry, the educational institutions cannot fulfill this demand properly. As for example I would like to mention some of systems and applications which have more demand in ICT industry but we have shortage of resources in these areas:

- a) Java, Python
- b) MySQL, Siebel, Informix;
- c) HP-UX, Web Sphere, Mac operating system;
- d) .Net, CodeIgniter, Cake PHP;
- e) UML Modeling Tool, Test Case;
- f) Mobile Cloud Apps;
- g) Web design and Search Engine Optimization (SEO).

All stakeholders relating ICT sector should come forward to formulate industry-based ICT curricula, University Grants Commission (UGC) should give more concentration in this regard.

As a part of its institutional development, DCCI wants to tag DCCI Business Institute (DBI) as hub of information technology where the business entrepreneurs can use ICT facilities in their day to day business activities.

Distinguished guests,

Manufacturing sectors including RMG, textile, pharmaceuticals and other consumer goods industries have high demand for IT solutions like Enterprise resource planning (ERP), HR information system, production and financial management solution. On the other hand, service industries like telecom, retail & wholesale, healthcare, education, publishing/media and real estate have created sizable market space for IT solution companies. Now the local software industry has been trying to keep pace with the most recent development going on across technology and communication arena. A good number of companies are now engage in developing high class software, development application (apps) for mobile and other hand-held devices. In recent days, there have been positive signs from global companies who have started to consider Bangladesh as their outsourcing or back-office location.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I like to let you know about some initiatives taken by DCCI which are as follow:

DCCI Help Desk: In order to support the business community of home and abroad, DCCI has established DCCI Helpdesk at its own premises. All the distinguished members of DCCI and the business community will get services regarding business registration, trade, commerce and business.

Creation of 2000 Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurship and Innovation Expo-2013: You will be happy to know that Dhaka Chamber of commerce and Industry (DCCI) in association with Bangladesh Bank has come forward with an innovative idea of Creating 2000 New Entrepreneurs in 2013 along with a parallel event of an expo titled Entrepreneurship and Innovation Expo-2013 which will be held during 1-2 November, 2013. This is an outstanding and unique initiative in the country as the Entrepreneurship Talent Hunting will be carry forward throughout the whole country to collect talents form every nook and corner of the country.

NRB for Positioning Bangladesh: Because of inappropriate engagement with huge pool of resources, Non Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) were not recognized and a bit dissociated to be encouraged to invest in Bangladesh. Now the extraordinary advancement of ICT, several reforms and implementation of Digital Bangladesh, NRBs are gradually fully associated and encouraged to invest in Bangladesh. In order to bring huge potentials of Bangladesh to the NRBs to invest in various potential productive areas, DCCI wants to create a strong relationship with these NRBs and support them to invest in Bangladesh. The Chamber is going to hold an event namely "NRB for Positioning Bangladesh" in Dhaka in this year.

I do not like to prolong my speech. I wish that this dialogue will help in reducing the gap between academy and industry oriented curriculum for the development of ICT advancement in Bangladesh.

Md. Sabur Khan
President, DCCI
July 28, 2013