

## Internet Governance Policy Dialogue 2021

Organized by Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum

26 August, 2021

Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) is going to organize Internet Governance Policy Dialogue 2021 on 26 August will be hosted online. BIGF policy dialogue theme on session-I of Inclusive and Affordable Connectivity, session-II of Internet Regulation & 5G Observation. Internet Governance Forums (IGFs) are an initiative led by the United Nations for the discussion of public policy issues relating to the internet. [www.bangladeshigf.org](http://www.bangladeshigf.org)

The purpose of the dialogue is to empower voices for amplifying and influencing power about Inclusive and Affordable Connectivity, Connectivity Regulation and 5G Observation.

According to sustainable development goals (SDGs) especially Goal-9 and Target-C mentioned significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in the least developed countries.

Enhancing digital inclusion in Bangladesh is essential to realizing this potential, given that access to reliable and affordable connectivity is a foundational step in maximizing the impact of digital technologies on the government's development aspirations. The reach of mobile networks has expanded with 95 per cent of the population covered by 4G mobile broadband networks.

According to BTRC the total number of Internet Subscribers has reached 112.713 million at the end of January, 2021. Bangladesh government has pledged to have 5G introduced.

However, the debate rages on over whether the dreams of the utopia promised by this technology is coherent with the realities of a market that could still be struggling to adopt the existing benefits of mobile bandwidth (<https://ibtbd.net/is-bangladesh-5g-ready/>).

According to the GSMA report the remaining 33 per cent, only 28 per cent subscribed to a mobile internet service in 2020 and 5 per cent did not live within the footprint of a mobile broadband network. Of the users of mobile internet services, under a third connected using 4G. The lag between 4G coverage and the share of 4G connections underscores that demand does not automatically follow supply.

In the policy dialogue discussion will be held on the current issues, its challenges and way forward.

**Program**

3:00-3:10	- <b>Opening</b> Welcome Introduction by Mr. <b>AHM Bazlur Rahman</b> , Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)
	<b>Session-I : Inclusive and Affordable Connectivity</b>
3:10-3:25	<b>Keynote</b> Paper Presented by <b>Dr. Md. Rafiqul Matin</b> , Managing Director, Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL)
3:25-3:45	<b>Panel Discussion</b> - <b>Mr. Sumon Ahmed Sabir</b> , Chief Technology Officer, Fiber@Home Ltd. - <b>Mr. Tom Varghese</b> , Head of Connectivity Policy, AP, Facebook
	<b>Session-II : Connectivity Regulation and 5G Observation</b>
3:45-4:00	- <b>Keynote</b> Paper Presented by Mr. <b>Brig Gen S M Farhad (Retd.)</b> Secretary General, Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh (AMTOB)
4:00-4:20	<b>Panel Discussion</b> - <b>Mr. Samiran Gupta</b> , Head of India, The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) - <b>Mr. Rased Mehedi</b> , President, Telecom Reporters' Network Bangladesh (TRNB) and Special Correspondent, The Daily Samakal - <b>Mr. T I M Nurul Kabir</b> , ICT & Telecom Sector Specialist & Executive Director, Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry(FICCI)
4:20-4:35	<b>Guest of Honor</b> - <b>Prof. Dr. Mohammad Mahfuzul Islam</b> , PEng, Vice-Chancellor, Canadian University of Bangladesh - <b>Mr. Aminul Hakim</b> , President, Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh - <b>Mr. Reza Salim</b> , Director, Amader Gram and Former South Asia Coordinator of United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (UNWSIS)
4:35-4:45	<b>Special Guest</b> - <b>Mr. Subrata Roy Maitra</b> , Vice Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)
4:45-5:00	<b>Chief Guest</b> - <b>H.E. Mustafa Jabbar</b> , Minister, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
5:00-5:15	<b>Chair</b> - <b>H.E. Hasanul Haq Inu</b> , MP, Chairperson, BIGF & Chairman, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh