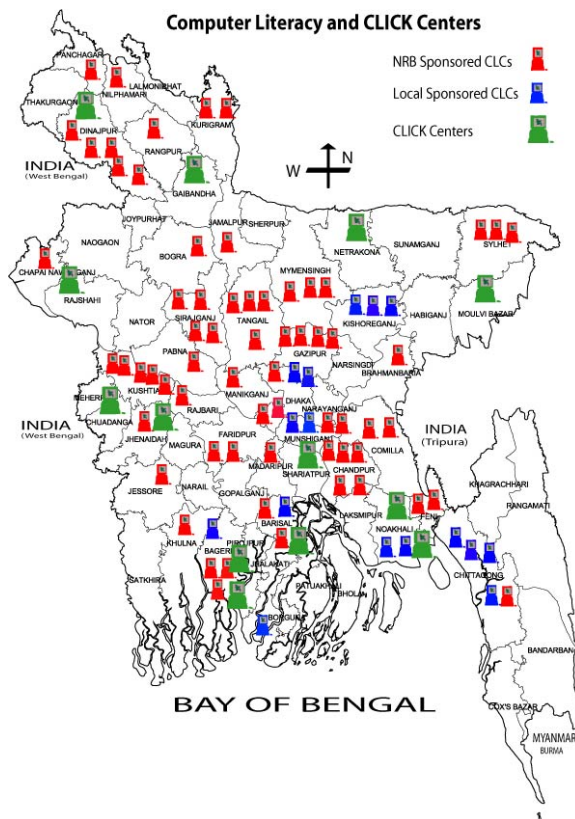


Computer Literacy Program 2008 Year-end Status

In late 2004, the Volunteers Association for Bangladesh, New Jersey (VAB-NJ) launched the Computer Literacy Program (CLP) to empower the underprivileged youths of rural Bangladesh by providing hands-on computer training. With generous help and continuing support from friends of Bangladesh like you, we have attained considerable success.

CLP Status as of December, 2008

- Total number of Computer Literacy Centers (CLCs): 83 (covers 35 out of 64 districts)
- 70% of the CLCs in underprivileged rural areas
- Total number of teachers trained: 192 (15% female)
- Total number of students enrolled: 16235 (male-female ratio 56:44)
- Total number of students received certificate of completion: 15718 (96.8%)
- Computer training expanded to include IT training: 28 centers
- Key external collaboration partners: Bank Asia, Microsoft, Relief International, Hossain Trust, Khan Foundation, and Siemens Bangladesh
- “CLICK” (Community for Learning Information, Communication and Knowledge): Inspired by the successes of the VABNJ’s Computer Literacy Program, Microsoft under its Unlimited Potential Program initiated the CLICK program in Bangladesh with D.Net providing advanced IT training to unemployed youth in rural Bangladesh. Under this project 13 CLICK centers are operating in 11 districts of Bangladesh



2008 Accomplishments

- Established twenty-three new CLCs have been bringing the total number to 83.
 - All CLCs were kept fully operational under the close and effective supervision of our Bangladesh partner D.Net.
- Over 15,718 students graduated through November, 2008.
- Bank Asia continues to show active interest in the program. With the success of 3 CLCs sponsored by the Bank in 2006 and 2007, the Bank sponsored additional 10 new CLCs in 2008 and plans to sponsor 8 more CLCs in 2009.
- Introduced internet connections to twenty eight centers with Relief International Schools Online collaboration, VAB patrons and Imdad Sitara Khan Foundation. The students of these schools are

communicating and working on joint projects with students from India, Tajikistan and USA.

- The computer literacy program upgraded to include internet training
- 24 old computers have been replaced with new ones in 24 CLCs.

VAB NJ launched a new initiative--Computer Teaches Everyday English (CTEE) taking advantage of the existing computer facilities in the CLCs. Under this initiative, a CD has been developed to provide fully structured English instructions. The objective is to help the students become conversant with everyday English simply by seeing; listening and repeating the "words" and "sentences" displayed on and recited from the computer monitor. The pictures and animations have been made consistent with the rural culture. The contents conform to Bangladesh Government's English program. In 2008 the CTEE program has been launched at four schools at a pilot scale. This pilot program is being carefully monitored to improve upon in time for the next round of full-scale implementation.

- Realizing that it is very important for the schools to be able to sustain their CLP, VAB NJ and D.Net have developed various income generating models. 11 schools have been selected to implement which include: digital photography, word processing etc.

2009 Activities and Plans

Our Plans for 2009 are as follows:

- Continue to provide necessary funding to run the CLCs established through 2008
- Establish at least 25 additional CLCs.
- Find sponsors to provide Internet connection to all CLCs as a supplementary educational tool where Internet service is available.
- Secure external support to implement full scale CTEE program at all CLCs.

VAB-NJ sincerely appreciates your support for the program to maintain the current level of activities. Your continued support and generous contributions are crucial to the overall success of the program. Please visit (www.clp.net.bd) for more detailed information on our programs. We are inviting you to our 2009 fundraising event, tentatively scheduled for **August 15 2009, at Rutgers University, New Jersey**. Please mark your calendar now; we will contact you with details of that program as we get close to that date. We look forward to your participation at the event. Thank you.