

## **BK-IAC of Department of CSE, BUET Wins the Best IAC Award 2013 at Global Telecentre Awards**

Telecentre.org Foundation and SPARK (world's fourth largest global forum regarding telecentre) organized the Global Telecentre Awards for the first time this year. IAC (Information Access Center) was one of the six award categories. Bangladesh-Korea Information Access Center (BK-IAC) run by the Department of CSE, BUET participated in this category. For this purpose a blog post highlighting the achievements of BK-IAC was submitted to the website of [community.telecentre.org](http://community.telecentre.org). A total of 38 IACs from around the world (notably Romania, Philippine, Egypt, Sri-Lanka, Indonesia, Jordan, Paraguay etc) also submitted blog posts at the same website to participate in the competition. On the basis of the blog posts the IACs from Jordan, Paraguay and Bangladesh were selected as the semi-finalists of the competition on April 10, 2013. After online evaluation and voting on the blog post and online activities of BK-IAC by experts from around the globe, BK-IAC was awarded the Best IAC Award 2013 at the Global Telecentre Awards on May 28-29, 2013 held at Granda, Spain.



Three aspects were mainly considered during the evaluation of Best IAC Award: social impact, innovation and sustainability. BK-IAC was established in 2008 as a joint venture by National Information Society Agency (NIA), Korea and BUET with a challenge to remove the digital divide between the developed and developing nations. It was renovated in 2012 by NIA. BK-IAC has trained more than 1000 individuals since its inception over 10 Batches. The regularly offered IT courses are: **Quick Web Development, Database Management and Administration, Linux System Administration and Server Configuration, Web Design and Application Development, Java Enterprise Web Programming, Application Development using C# and ASP.NET and Mobile Application Development in Android.** The courses are conducted by the talented faculty members of the Department of CSE, BUET. The course fees are minimum and BK-IAC is run only through these fees without any grants from the university. Moreover volunteers from Korea come here each year and offer some courses. Other than courses BK-IAC regularly hosts international workshops (notably WALCOM 2010, WALCOM 2012 etc), conferences and seminars. BK-IAC also provides low cost high speed internet usage to any citizen of Bangladesh. Government and private officials are also offered specialized courses like e-Governance Implementation Plan in Directorate General of Food, Image Processing for RAJUK officials, Computer Graphics Design for DFP officials, Software Development for Investment Corporation of Bangladesh etc. that cater to their requirements. Mainly due to these reasons BK-IAC was able to earn the first spot at the Global Telecentre Awards. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has also highly appreciated BK-IAC's contribution in realizing the dream of Digital Bangladesh during her visit on March 4, 2012. For more details about the activities of BK-IAC please visit: [www.buet.ac.bd/cse/iac](http://www.buet.ac.bd/cse/iac).