



**BdREN**  
Annual Report 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## BdREN



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[www.bdren.net.bd](http://www.bdren.net.bd)

***Bangladesh Research and Education Network***

**“We love challenges as a  
smooth sea never produced a  
skilled sailor”**

*Mohammad Tawrit*

**CEO, BdREN  
Mohammad Tawrit**



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## MESSAGE - CHAIRPERSON



*“The financial sustainability of BdREN is no longer a question, rather we are now working on diversifying our products and services to make the sustainability more resilient so that it can withstand any kind of adversaries in the worst case.”*

I feel proud to place my messages again in BdREN's Annual Report while BdREN has successfully completed four years of its operation. There is no doubt in saying that BdREN has already stamped its presence in the community delivering its high-quality and cutting-edge services to the highest satisfaction of its members. As I mentioned in my previous notes that BdREN is growing financially stronger and taller, I am reiterating that the financial sustainability of BdREN is no longer a question, rather we are now working on diversifying our products and services to make the sustainability more resilient so that it can withstand any kind of adversaries in the worst case.

Talking about the Horizontal Expansion BdREN has already chartered into a new domain by signing an agreement with National University to connect 120 colleges to its network. It is our plan to eventually connect all the Honors and Masters level colleges in near future. At the same time BdREN's network has been extended to newly formed public universities and it has kept on extending its tentacles to reach the premises of additional Non-govt. universities. It is undeniable that BdREN has less share of the cake in terms of the total number of Non-govt. universities connected to its network. To amend that non-performance, BdREN is slowly making its stride to increase its shares in the industry. One of the challenges in connecting the Non-govt. universities was the fact that many Non-govt. universities were still to move to their permanent spaces. That came as a stumbling block for BdREN in extending its network to the university premises considering that laying cable to temporary campuses might not become cost effective. However, BdREN is trying to overcome that challenge by renting the NTTN facility.

I am thrilled to let you know that BdREN has made significant development in diversifying its product and services which was my last time commitment to you. In addition to providing its traditional services, BdREN has earned noteworthy revenue from providing consultancy services in video conferencing design, campus network design, framing web portal and software application development. BdREN is looking for extending its software

application development services towards international arena. Hope BdREN will keep on continuing this endeavor and bring its efforts into fruition leveraging on its efficient software team. Once BdREN becomes successful, it will be able to help the nation recovering its foreign currency shortage.

As I pledged last time that BdREN was striving to get a sustainable solution for the Zoom video conferencing application, BdREN Team, in support from LEARN (Sri Lanka), DrukREN (Bhutan), NREN (Nepal) and individual "pro bono" consultancy services from Rene Buch, the ex-CEO of NORDUnet has been dealing directly with Zoom and it is being expected that very soon BdREN will be able to come up with an affordable solution.

I am glad to know that BdREN's roles in marshalling two granted distance learning projects awarded under Asi@Connect have been lauded in APAN55 held in Kathmandu on 13-17 March, 2023. BdREN is actively leading a forum comprising of the emerging NRENs from Asia-Pacific community. In addition to that it has played significant role in the REN leaders' forum comprised of all the CxOs of the Asia-Pacific community. This leadership role of BdREN augurs new hopes and aspirations for the future and I reckon that this will lift the image of the organization and the country at a higher stature.

I am really impressed with the Financial Achievements of BdREN. The "Revenue" and "Surplus" figures are both in an uptrend. BdREN's dependency on government fund is lowering year by year. At the same time, it is highly satisfying to find that BdREN is replacing the equipment and machineries which are going out of date from the revenue it is earning. In addition, to continue its horizontal expansion, BdREN is focusing on investing its earnings in procuring new Servers, Routers and Switches as well as in laying optical fiber cables to connect new universities. It is a rare distinction in the global NREN community and as the Chairperson of BdREN I feel proud for that.

Finally, as I always do, I express my gratitude to all my colleagues in the Board of Trustees for their dynamic leadership and for their constant help and advice in the development of BdREN. I also appreciate all the stakeholders for helping us stand taller in the industry. Last but not the least I am grateful to all the members for keeping their trust on us. We wish to do better in future.

**Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah**  
Chairperson

*Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) Trust*



## MESSAGE - VICE-CHAIRPERSON



*“It brings me immense pride to witness the continued growth and success of the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) as we step into the fifth year of our operations.”*

As the Vice Chairperson of the BdREN Trust, I am honored to present this message on the occasion of publishing our annual report, reflecting on our journey, challenge, growth and accomplishments over the past year. It brings me immense pride to witness the continued growth and success of the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) as we step into the fifth year of our operations.

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the Honorable Chairperson for leading the Trustee Board with vision, prudence and unwavering energy. I appreciate BdREN team, led by its CEO, in orchestrating services of unparalleled quality to its member Institutes. Honorable Chairman's Vision and guidance in the Board as well as the dynamic roles of the Board Members have propelled BdREN forward, making it a significant player in the realm of research, education and networking, not only in Bangladesh but across the Asia-Pacific community. Steadily and surely, we are moving towards making BdREN the "Researchers' Heaven", that we dreamt on the first day of starting our operation.

BdREN has made remarkable strides since its establishment, and as we embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead, it is crucial to reflect on the pillars that have supported our growth. Financial sustainability continues to be a cornerstone of our operations. As we diversify our products and services, our goal is not only to maintain a strong financial base but also to ensure resilience against all possible adversities. Our pursuit of sustainability, following clear strategies, is no longer a distant aspiration but it is a successful ground reality.

The increase in our internet bandwidth from 17Gbps to 20Gbps signifies not just a numerical achievement but the trust and reliance our members place on us. The planned addition of 120 colleges under the National University to our network illustrates how we are expanding our reach and impact. This horizontal growth is pivotal as we strive to ensure that all Honors and Masters level colleges across Bangladesh are going to be connected to our robust network in near future.

The challenges posed by the transitional phase of many Non-govt. universities, moving from temporary campus to permanent campus, continue to hinder our expansion, yet our patience and strategic planning will inevitably lead to fulfilling our goal in bringing more Non-govt. universities into our belt.

Innovation has been a hallmark of our operations. As we have diversified from traditional services, our commitment to providing comprehensive consultancy services has grown. By engaging in ventures such as video conferencing design, campus network design, and software application development, BdREN has become an indispensable partner for many institutions. At the same time such efforts are helping BdREN towards reaching its goal of 'Vertical Expansion'.

The strive in securing affordable Zoom licenses through collaborative arrangements between South Asian Partner NRENS and the 'Zoom' itself has progressed substantially and we are hopeful that very soon we will emerge with attaining Zoom licenses at an affordable price. This will usher a bright future for BdREN members, allowing them to move towards "Hybrid" education which is going to be the new normal in no time.

International collaboration has been a focal point for BdREN in the past year. Our leadership roles in both the emerging NREN forum and the REN leaders' forum within the Asia-Pacific community demonstrate our commitment to building bridges across nations. We have witnessed an increased demand for our consultancy services and are poised to leverage our expertise to further facilitate regional development.

The eduroam service initiative at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport represents not just a technological achievement but a pioneering effort that illustrates BdREN's ambition to ease connectivity for researchers and academicians on the move. The positive reception and replication of this flagship service in other airports of the regional NRENS might result in NRENS as a community to thrive in the industry.

We recognize that our members are the backbone of BdREN, and we have actively worked towards continuous enhancement of their service experiences. In conducting 'Meet & Greet' workshops in different regions across the country, we have strived to foster a strong sense of collaboration and partnership in the community, allowing members to share insights and challenges in an open environment. At the same time we are focusing on the capacity development programs of our member institutes. Upskilling workforce of the community remains a priority, demonstrating our dedication to not just maintaining a network, but nurturing the talent within the community.

Our commitment to addressing the needs of our members is evident in our proactive approach. The planning of introduction of new services like SMTP Relay, Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, and campus network maintenance will hopefully respond to the growing needs of our educational institutes. As we continue to evolve, it is crucial that we remain flexible and adaptable, open to feedback, and inspired to innovate further.

Financial stability is indeed our foundational strength, as highlighted in the statistics presented in this report. As we continue to enhance our diversified service offerings within the community, we have made formidable improvement in creating balance in the revenue earning between "Public" and "Non-govt." universities and also in increasing the share of "Operating" Revenue as opposed to "Non-Operating" Revenue.

While the current economic atmosphere presents challenges, our signature consultancy projects stand out as solid achievements. The involvement of BdREN in the development of the 'BGP Watch' portal demonstrates BdREN's capability to engage in diverse arenas, showcasing our agility and resourcefulness when addressing complex technological needs.

As we move forward, I urge all stakeholders, members, and collaborators to unite in our common purpose. Our vision of creating a seamless research and education network requires collective cooperation and shared aspirations. Each institution connected to BdREN has a role to play in shaping the future of our educational landscape.

As we reflect on our journey so far, it is clear that BdREN is on a positive trajectory of growth, innovation and long-term sustainability. Each achievement is not just a number or a statistic; it represents the hard work, dedication, and collaborative efforts of everyone involved—the Board of Trustees, BdREN Team Members, and last but not the least our esteemed member institutions.

At the end, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders for their continuous support and cooperation. Together, let us continue to push the boundaries of what is possible in the research and education sector, ensuring that BdREN not only serves its current members but also establishes a smooth track for future generations of learners, researchers and innovators.

**Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir**  
Vice-Chairperson

*Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) Trust*

## MESSAGE - CEO



*“I enjoyed having the golden opportunity to lead an efficient bunch of professionals towards developing a truly successful and financially solvent organization.”*

I am pleased to put down my notes here as BdREN is successfully stepping into the fifth year of its operation. I am privileged to be the witness of BdREN's development from the very beginning and I am proud to say that I enjoyed having the golden opportunity to lead an efficient bunch of professionals towards developing a truly successful and financially solvent organization. I am honoured that I have been given the opportunity to write a few words supporting my claim.

BdREN's internet bandwidth has surged from 17Gbps in June 2022 to a figure of 20Gbps on 30 June 2023. The spiraling in the consumption of this high internet bandwidth has resulted mostly from the horizontal growth of BdREN through connecting new universities, both public and private. As mentioned in my last year's statement, BdREN's software team has continued developing masterpieces and the recently developed "financial and accounting" module is a testament to my narrative. BdREN's eFile system is facing cut-through competition with e-Nothi/d-Nothi application system developed by a2I which is widely sponsored by the government. However, the promising aspect is that a few of the universities who intend to have more control on their software application and data, are trying to go against the tide and are opting for e-File system of BdREN.

In our drive to connect more public and Non-govt. universities to BdREN network, it is to be mentioned that in case of public universities BdREN has the monopoly market due to quality of services being rendered. Non-govt. universities are slowly coming forward as the rate of BdREN connectivity is going lower in course of time. At the moment we have 42 public universities and 18 Non-govt. universities directly connected to BdREN.

Noteworthy progress has been made in establishing the federated services through TIGERfed. BdREN has established federated connectivity with many of the e-Book and e-Journal publishers which will pave the way in providing "single sign-on" modality of access across the universities once the latter become part of the federation.

BdREN bolstered its service base by introduction of a few services like SMTP Relay, access to e-Journals, Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, dSPACE and other applications conducive to implementation of digital library. Moreover, other out of the way services like campus network maintenance, web-portal development and delivery of hardware and software for the universities are being provided as and when needed basis with satisfactory feedback from the community. In addition BdREN is in the process of making its flagship video conferencing services using zoom platform sustainable in collaboration with other regional NRENs. I firmly believe that this will give BdREN a huge leverage on the other service providers.

In fortifying its international footprint BdREN has played a significant and active role in the APAN community. It has come up with a leadership role in emerging NREN forum whereas it is making mentionable contribution in REN leaders forum. BdREN is also playing a leading role in development of Internet Governance Forum in the Asia-Pacific community. In collaboration with overseas NRENs, BdREN is in the process of providing consultancy services to APAN for developing the FileSender Application.

BdREN's eduroam service at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, the first of its kind in Asia-Pacific community, has become a trendsetter. I reckon that this will establish a signature service for each individual NREN in the community to follow suit. I am hopeful that time is not far enough where we will have eduroam services in all international airports to make the life easier for the traveling researchers and academicians. BdREN's pledged eduroam service at other international airports of the country are in the offing.

BdREN is gradually evolving its other revenue generating services in the form of delivery of hardware and software for the member institutes, development of software for the community, domestic and overseas consultancies, campus network maintenance and other out of the way services to reduce its dependance on only "Internet Services" for its financial diversity. Moreover, it is a matter of

satisfaction that BdREN's revenue from Non-govt.universities and other institutes are slowly growing and have taken a bigger percentage share than it was in place before. Comparing with a figure of 9% contribution from other services in Financial Year 2018-2019, the percentage has steadily grown over the years to reach a level of 18% in Financial Year 2022-23. This figure vindicates our claim of horizontal expansion.

In another perspective, BdREN's revenue earning from operating services are gradually getting the better share of the pie compared to its earning from non-operating services. In Financial Year 2019-20, the share of operating revenue was 54% against a non-operating income of 46%. Over the years the operating revenue part has increased significantly to a figure of 69% in Financial Year 2022-23. This supports our claim that BdREN's vertical expansion is also growing as pledged.

Talking about the financial accomplishments it can be claimed that financial stability is BdREN's pivotal strength. In the financial year 2022-2023, BdREN could earn a "Gross Surplus" of BDT 9.05 crore. The "Gross Surplus" is the "Total Revenue" minus "Operating Expenses". From this "Gross Surplus", BDT 8.07 crore was used for "Replacement and Expansion of Capital" providing a net contribution of BDT 0.98 crore to its exchequer. However, BdREN's "Operating Revenue" [BDT 165m] has surpassed its "Operating Expenses" [BDT 163m] for the very first time during the financial year which signifies another milestone for BdREN.

We cannot deny that due to economic downturn the scope has dwindled in the field of International Consultancy. However, BdREN could manage one flagship consultancy work in the form of developing the textual and video documentation of an Application Software on "BGP Watch" portal developed by Tsinghua University, Beijing. This shows BdREN's capability in extending consultancy in diversified arena.

On the other hand, domestically BdREN has continued its consultancy services for video conferencing setup, campus network design, campus wireless network design, connectivity to REN, web portal development and on many other issues revolving state-of-the-art technologies.

In continuation of our focus on enhancing our members' satisfaction we have organized a number of "Meet & Greet" workshops at different places of the country. All these events were widely acclaimed by the participants from the member institutions. In addition, as a demonstration of our commitment to the society, a number of trainings as well as internship programs have been organized during the year to upskill the community workforce.

Finally, I pledge again, as I did before, BdREN's strive will continue in attaining its sustainability. I reckon that success will certainly follow provided we get the cooperation of our members and stakeholders as we had the same throughout our journey.

**Mohammad Tawrit**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

*Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) Trust*

# BdREN Governance - Board of Trustees

BdREN is being operated as a state-owned non-profit autonomous Trust with a Board of Trustees consisting of representatives from the UGC, Universities, MoE, and other members co-opted for their expertise and position in relevant industries.



**Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah**  
Chairman, UGC and Chairperson,  
BdREN Trust



**Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir**  
Member, UGC and Vice-Chairperson,  
BdREN Trust



**Prof. Dr. Md. Forhad Hossain**  
Vice-Chancellor, MBSTU and  
Member, BdREN Trust



**Prof. Dr. M. Kamruzzaman**  
Vice-Chancellor, HSTU and  
Member, BdREN Trust



**Prof. Dr. Swadesh Chandra Samanta**  
Vice-Chancellor, PSTU and  
Member, BdREN Trust



**Prof. Dr. Qumrul Ahsan**  
Vice-Chancellor, University of  
Asia-Pacific and Member,  
BdREN Trust



**Prof. Dr. A Z M Mostaque Hossain**  
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Medical University and  
Member, BdREN Trust



**Prof. Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul  
Alam**  
Vice-Chancellor, CUET and  
Member, BdREN Trust



**Prof. Dr. M. Osman Gani Talukder**  
Vice-Chancellor, Varendra University  
and Member, BdREN Trust



**Vacant**  
Inductee Trustee



**Mr. AKM Aftab Hossain  
Pramanik**  
Additional Secretary, MoE  
and Member, BdREN Trust

## BdREN Think-tank



## Business Development



B  
d  
R  
E  
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## Software



Bangladesh Research and  
Education Network



HR  
&  
Admin

T  
e  
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m



Finance  
&  
Accounts

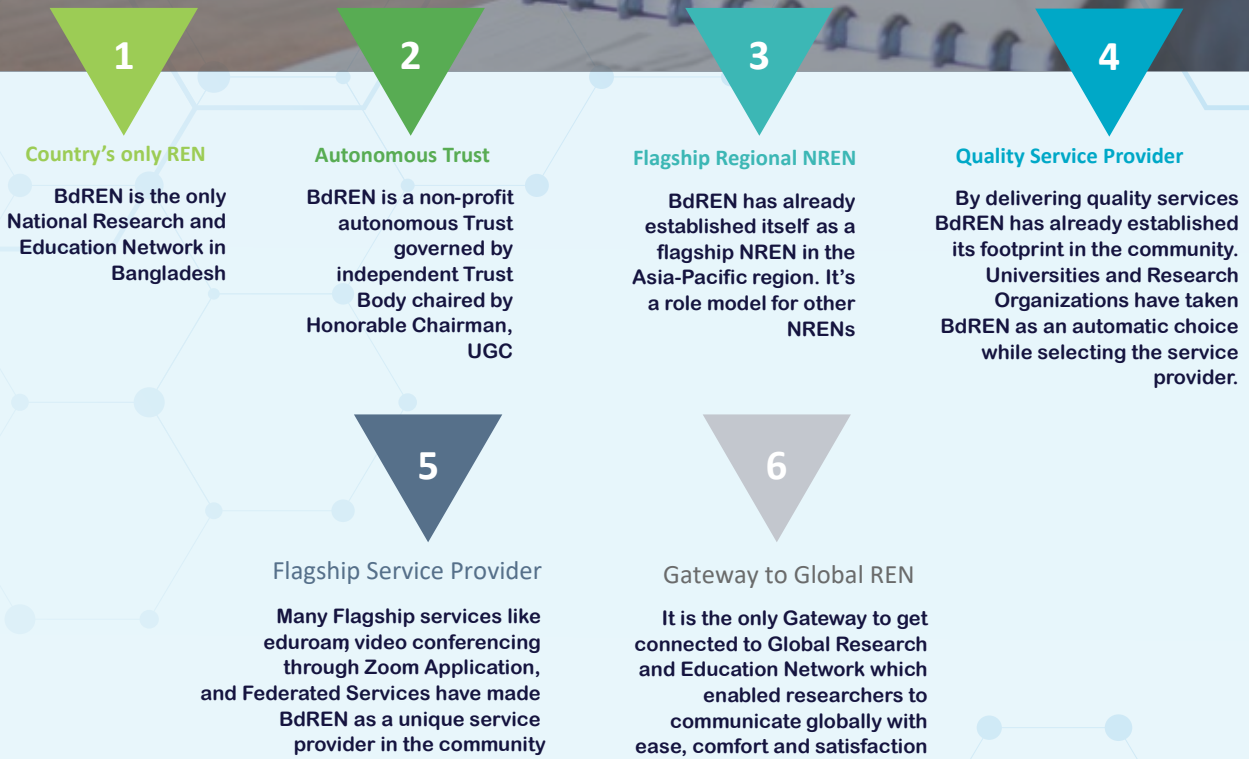
Data  
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Transmission



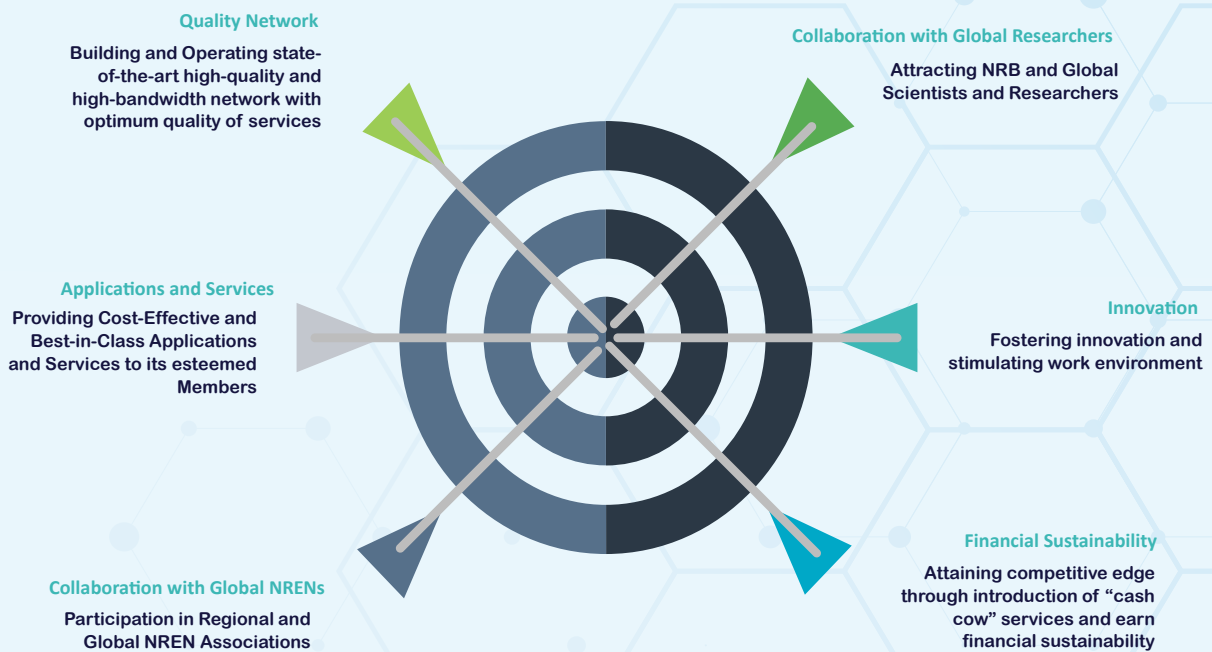


# Who We Are

# Introducing BdREN



## BdREN's SMART Goals



# Mission

To establish BdREN as one of the iconic NREN brands in terms of helping Researchers and educationists in doing their research, through quality access to network and content delivery while addressing their needs in an agile, innovative, collaborative and caring manner.

# Vision

To establish BdREN as the default home of choice for all researchers and educationists in serving their needs.

## BdREN's Culture

### More Listening than Speaking

Listen to Members' complains and suggestions not for speaking back but to learn and react accordingly.

### Ownership

The officials of BdREN shall act in a way so that it reflects that the organization belongs to them. Imbued with the same philosophy the members will act.

### Going Extra Mile

BdREN activities shall not only satisfy the members, but it will also give them something additional which no other service provider can offer.

### Team Work

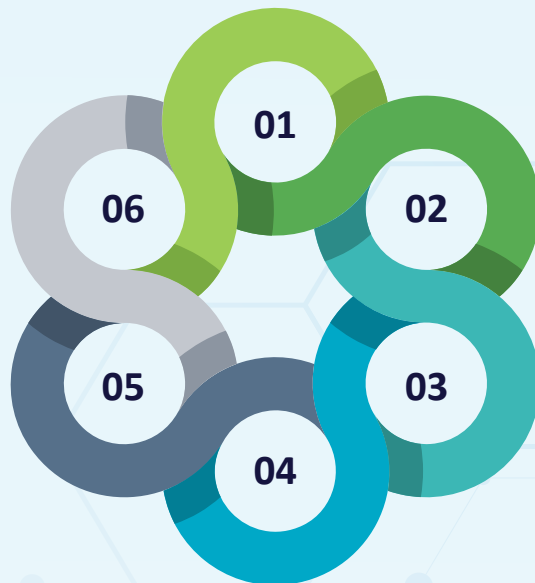
The officials of BdREN work in a Team. BdREN believes in the motto that team effort always gives more than the summation of individual efforts.

### Innovation and Creativity

Be creative and innovative to ensure competitive advantage over its competitors. Sustainability ceases to exist without innovation.

### Positive Attitude

Need to be optimistic rather than being pessimistic and bring out the best out of anything.



# History

**2022**

BdREN hosted 53<sup>rd</sup> APAN ( Association of NRENs in AsiaPacific) Meeting.

**2020**

Paved the way of facilitating online class and Education in Mass scale during COVID-19 Pandemic.

**2023**

111 Honours and Master's colleges to be Connected.

**2019**

BdREN Trust in Operation. Additional TEIN connectivity established through NKN

**2015**

BdREN First phase completed (34 Universities connected)

**2018**

BdREN second phase completed. Additional 25 Institutions connected including Medical Colleges & Research Institutes.

**2014**

Non-Profit BdREN Trust Formed. HEQEP second phase Started

**2011**

Leased 3200km OPGW from PGCB

**2009**

BdREN Started under HEQEP

**2012**

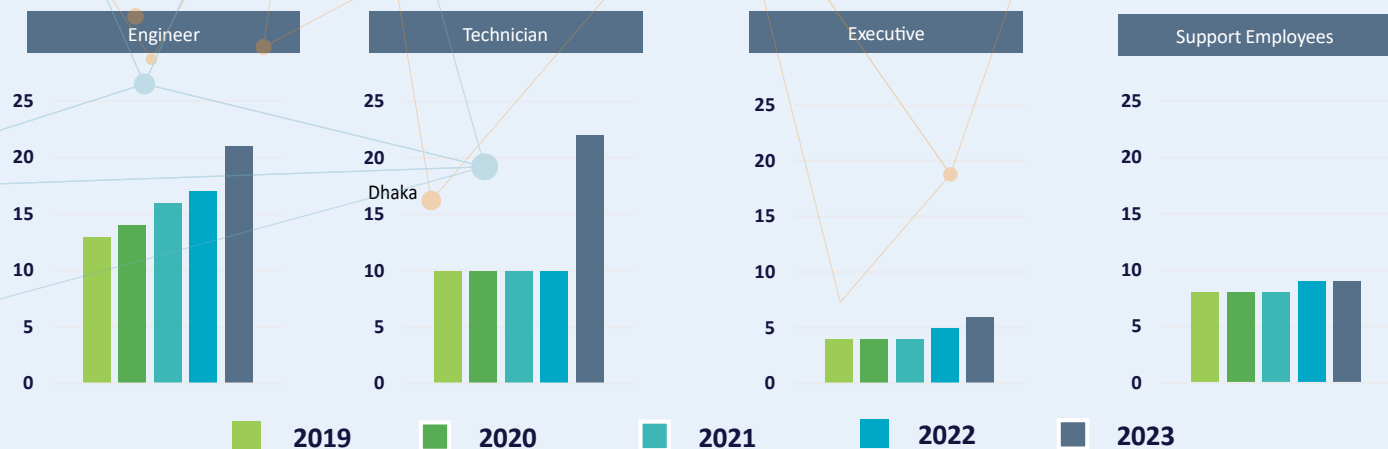
connectivity with TEIN3. BdREN pilot phase completed (6 Universities connected)

# BdREN

## Growing Towards Researchers' Heaven



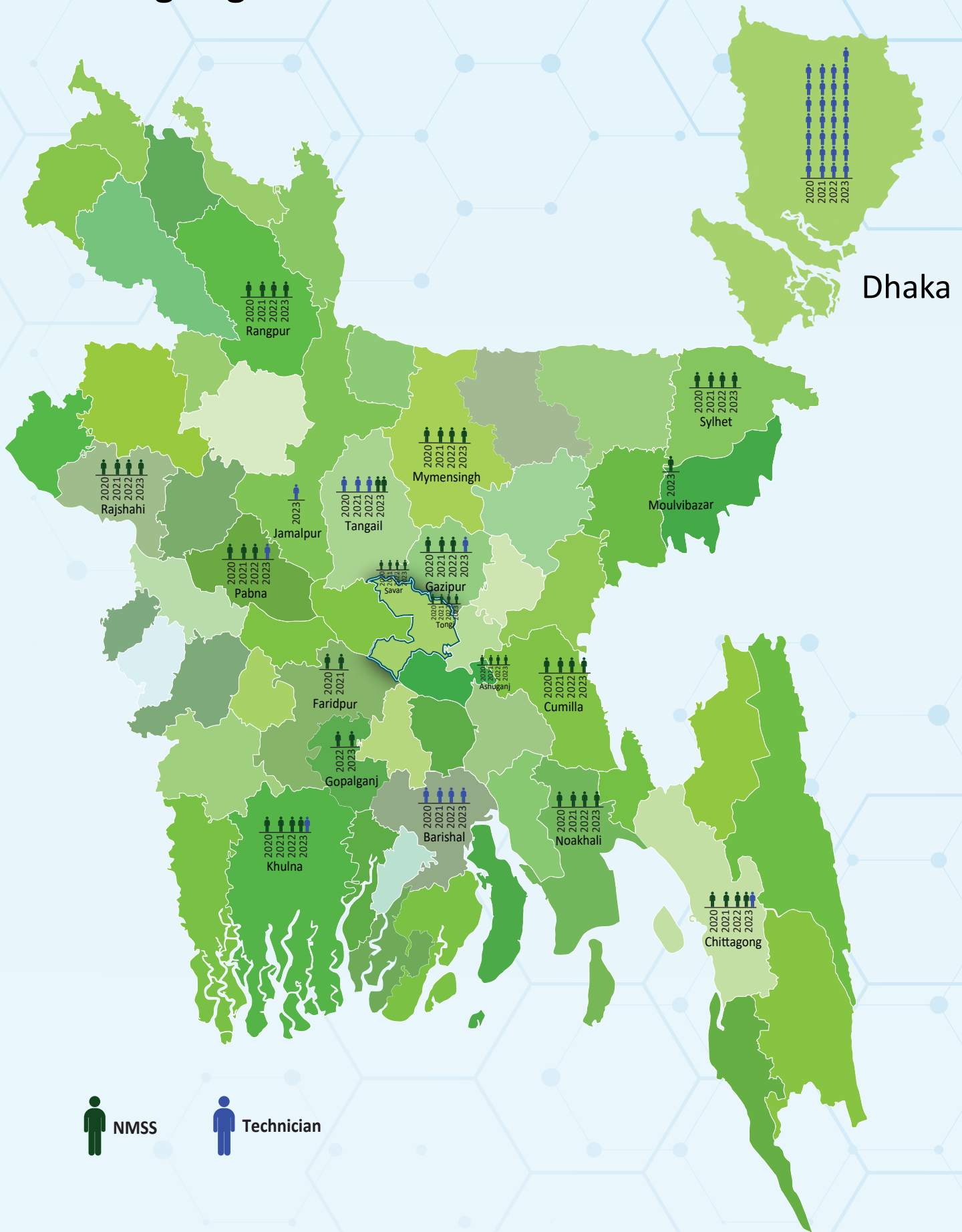
# BdREN Human Resource Growth [2019-2023]



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Engineer	13	14	16	17	21
Technician	10	10	10	10	22
Executive	4	4	4	5	6
Support Employees	8	8	8	9	9



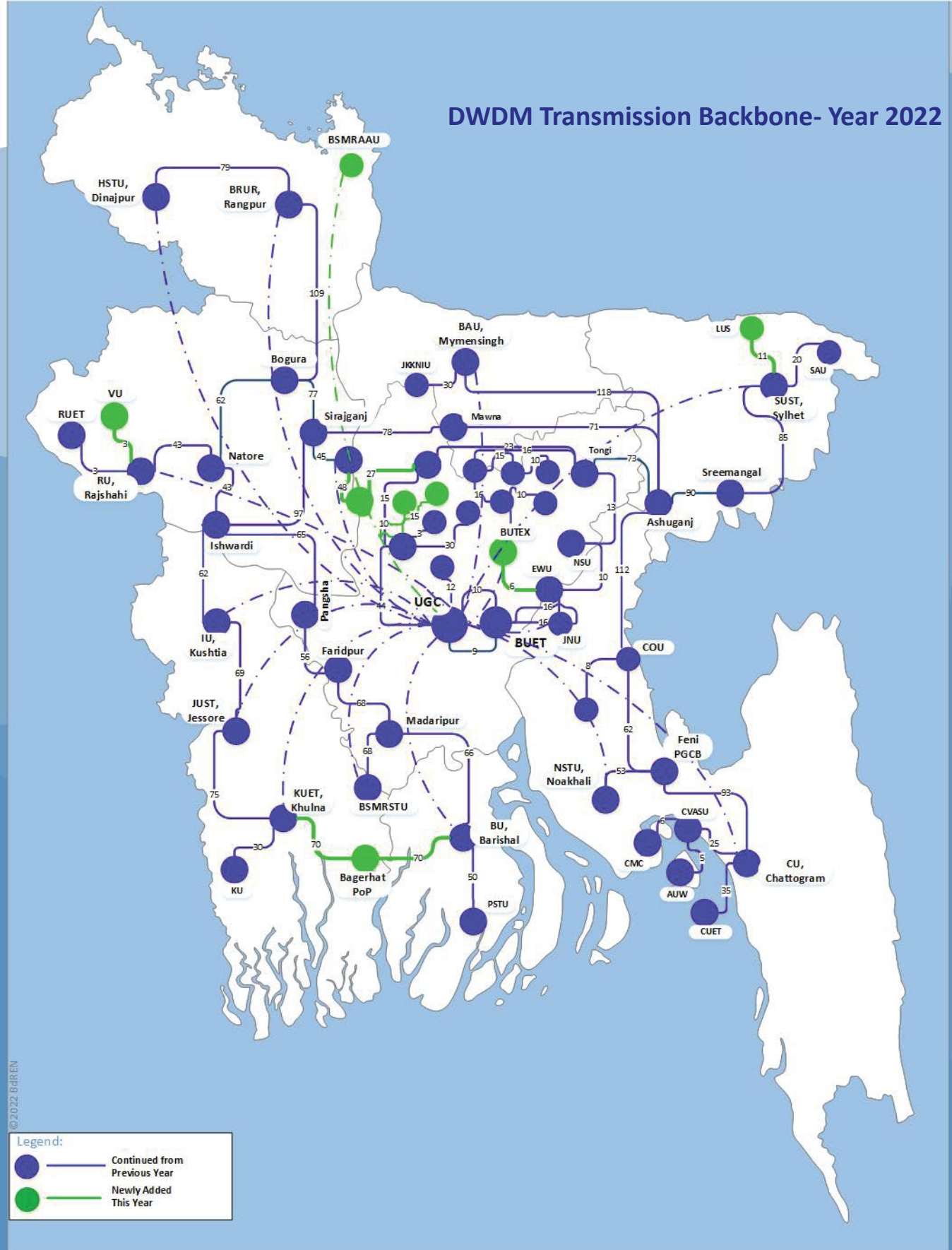
# Increasing Regional Presence of Human Resources:





# **BdREN's Presence and Horizontal Expansion- Network Perspective**

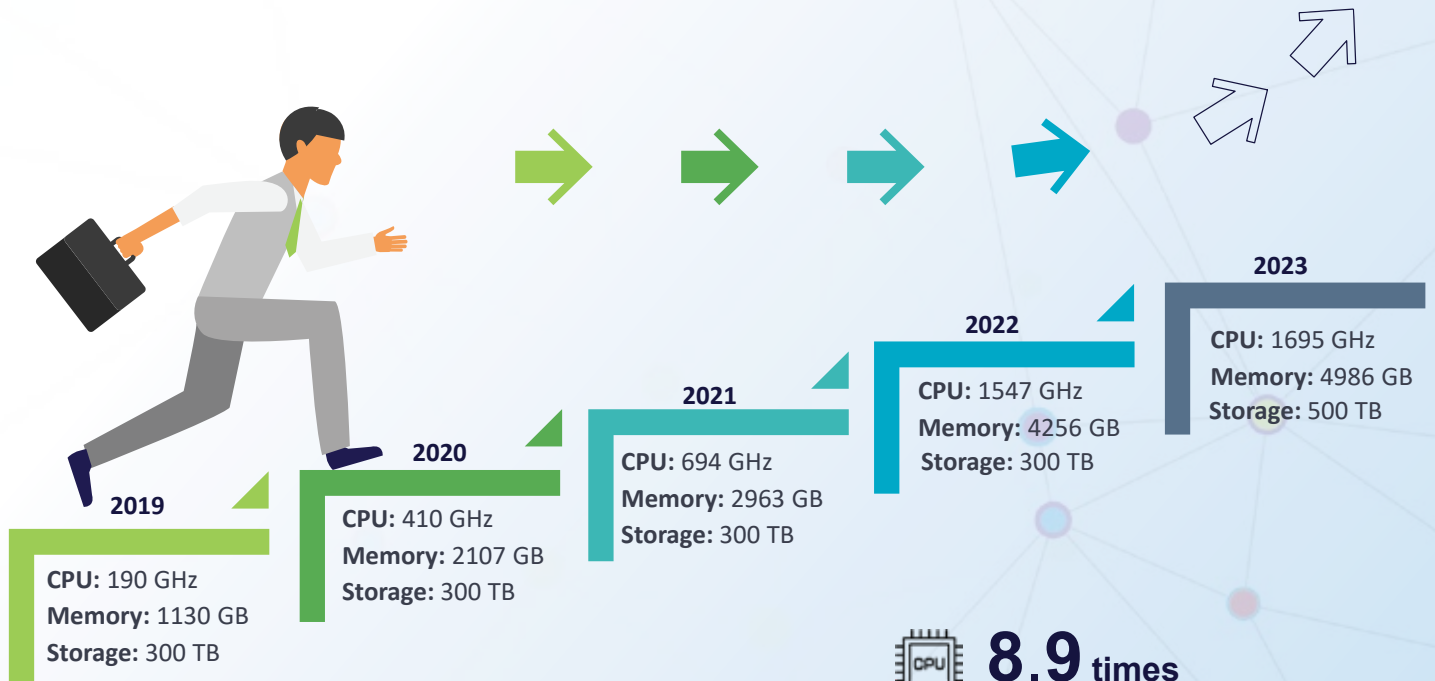
## DWDM Transmission Backbone- Year 2022




© 2022 BdREN




# Data Center Resources Evolution



**GROWTH :**  
2019 TO 2023

 **8.9** times

 **4.4** times

 **1.7** times

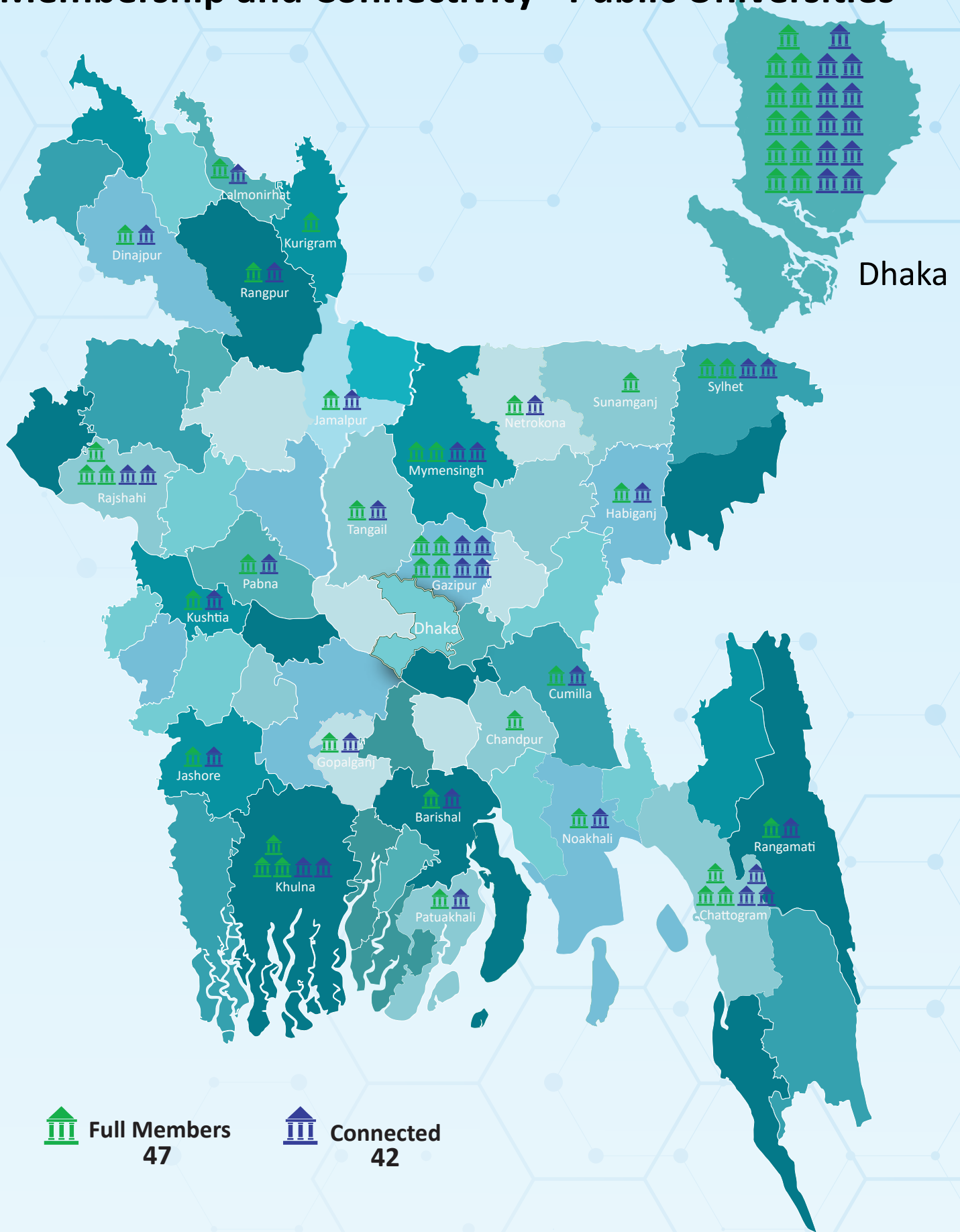
## Growth of Data Center Capacity






# BdREN's Presence and Horizontal Expansion- Service Perspective

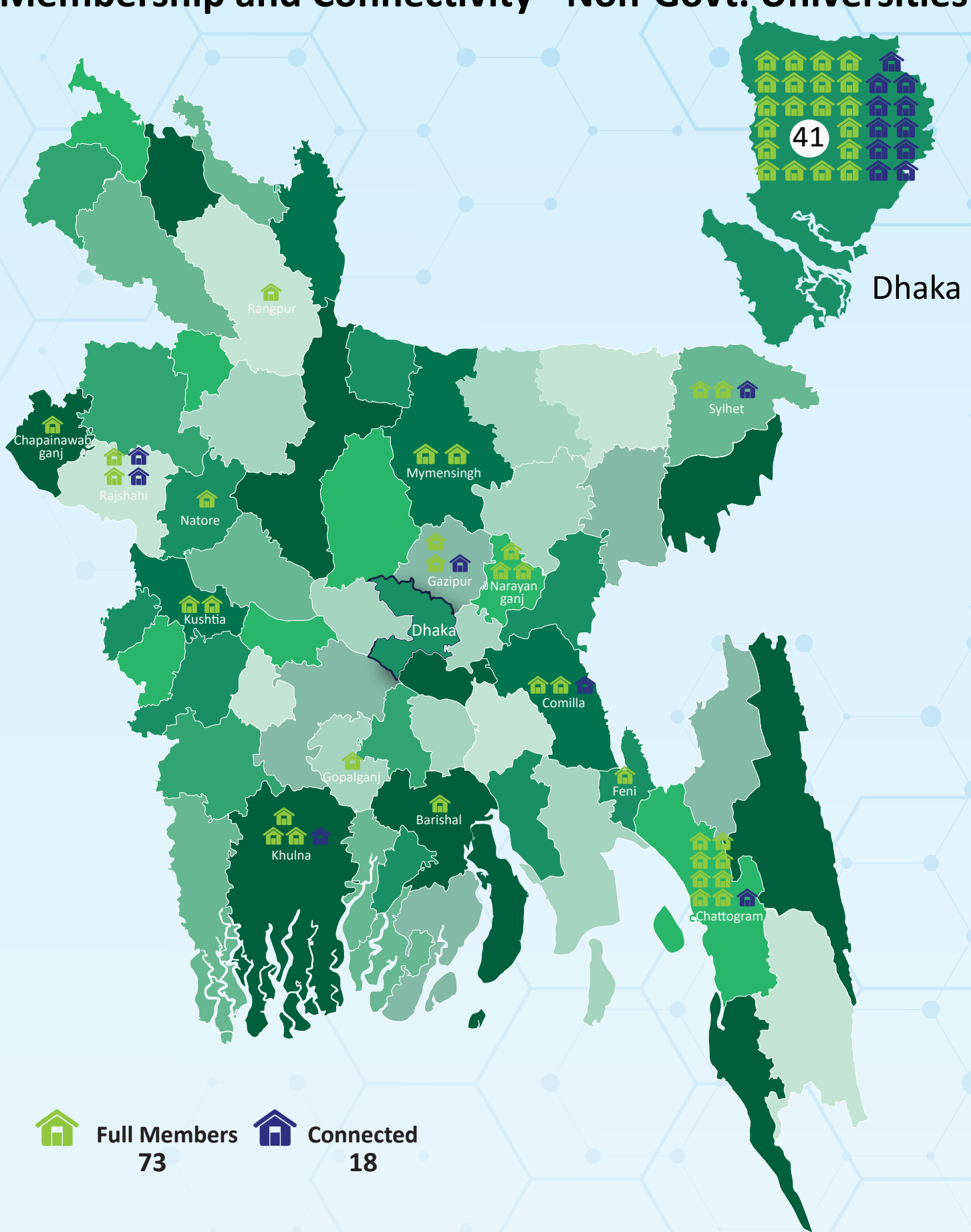
# Membership and Connectivity - Public Universities



 Full Members  
47

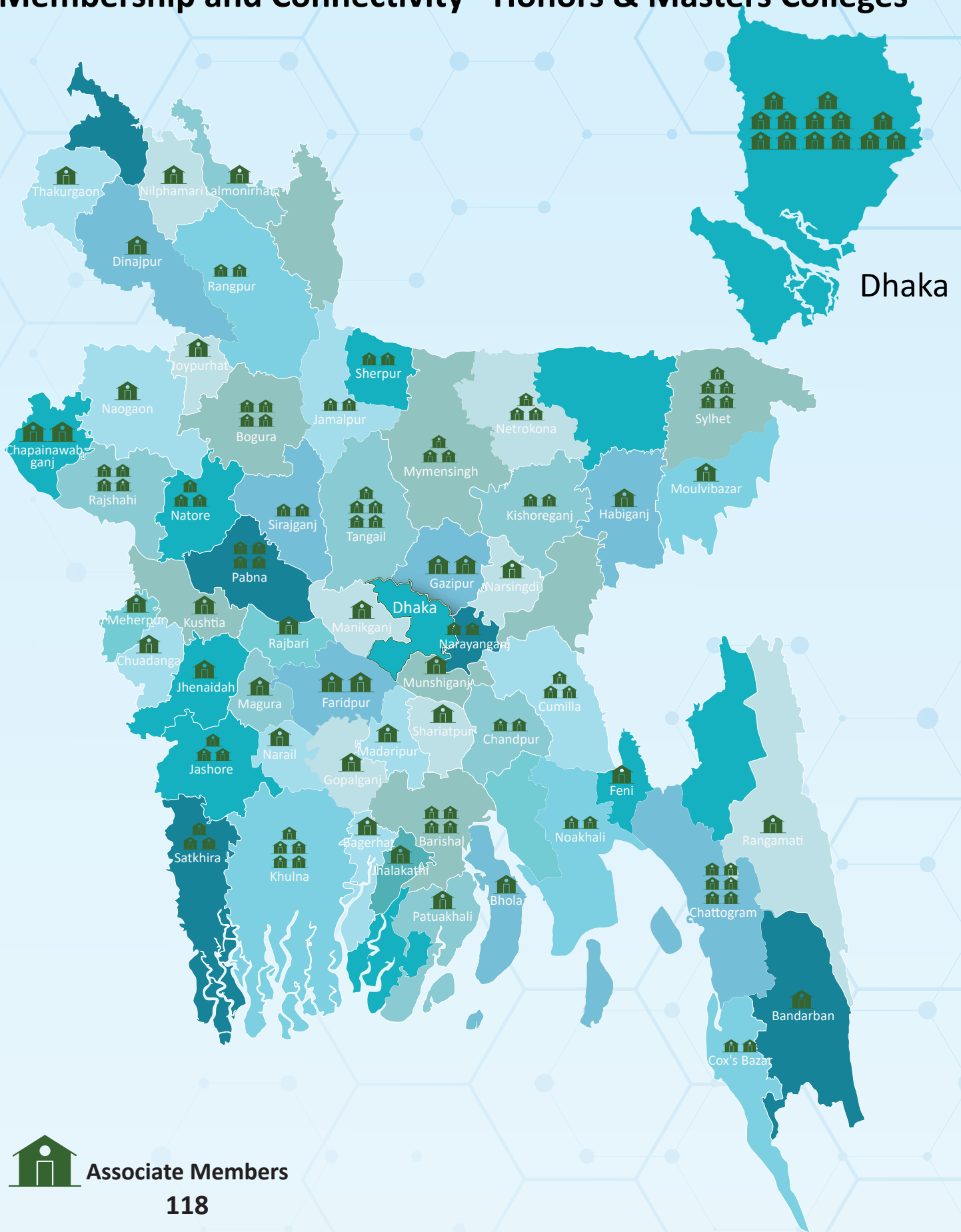
 Connected  
42

# Membership and Connectivity - Non-Govt. Universities



 Full Members 73  Connected 18

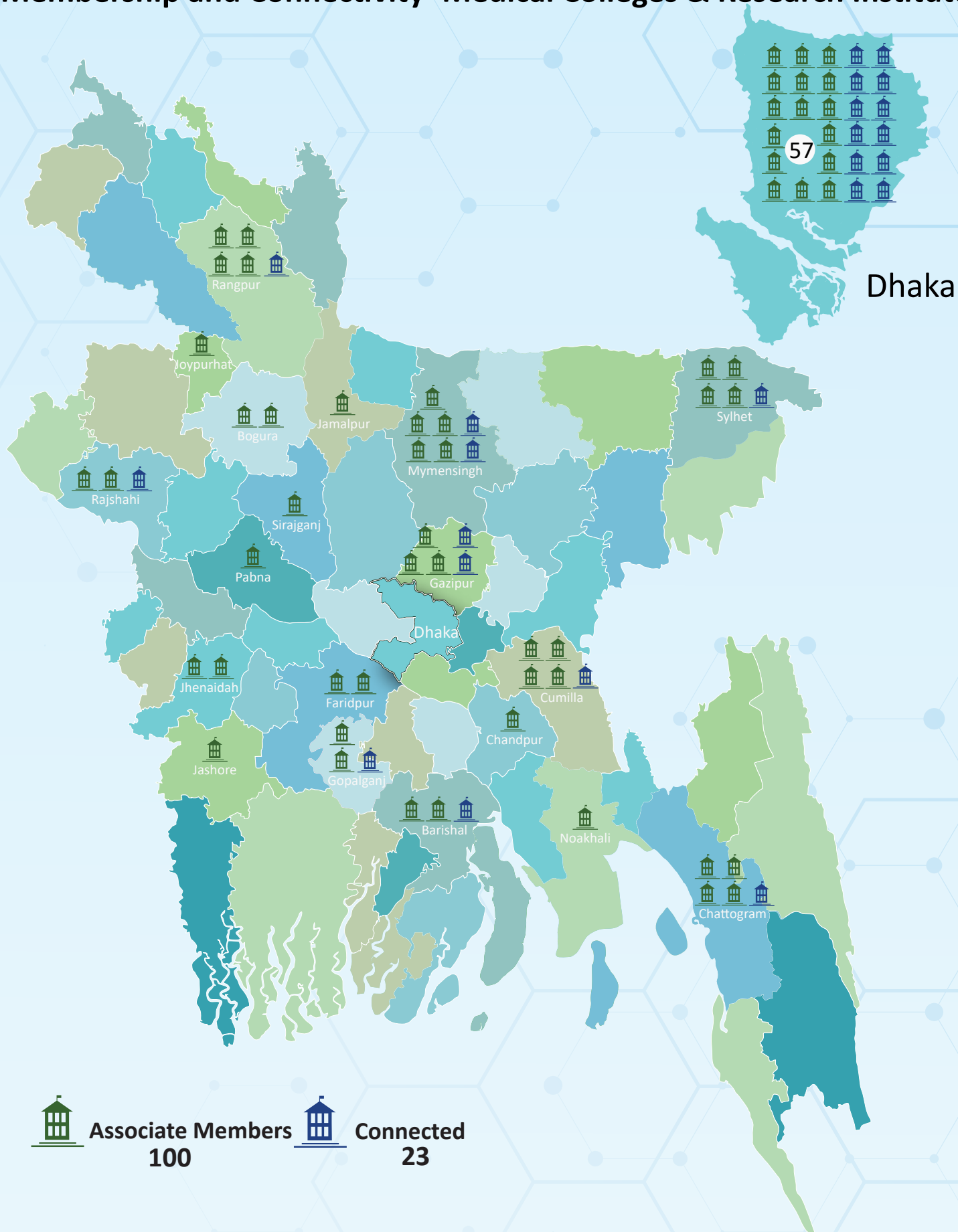
# Membership and Connectivity - Honors & Masters Colleges





Associate Members

118

# Membership and Connectivity- Medical Colleges & Research Institutes



 Associate Members **100**  Connected **23**



# **BdREN's Vertical Expansion- Existing Services and New Service Introduction Plan**

# Currenty Available Service

# Planned Services

## In The Pipeline

Services offered to our Valuble Members

**Currenty Available Service**

- eFile
- NREN Maturity Calculator
- Web Development
- Cloud Storage
- Certificate Verification
- Financial Application
- On-Prem Backup
- Zoom
- Content Delivery Network
- e-Compendium
- Colocation
- Event Broadcasting, Recording & Live Streaming
- Internet Connectivity
- Web/Email/DNS Hosting
- Disaster Recovery
- Domestic & International Consultancy
- High Performance computing & Graphical Computing
- Workshop/ Training
- LMS
- Campus Network
- L2/L3 VPN
- IP Telephony
- Global Research Network
- Smart Classroom
- eduGAIN
- eduroam

**Planned Services**

- File Sharing
- Virtual Lab Facility through VDI
- ERP Application
- Soft Certificate Generation
- eBook Subscription
- University Management System (UMS)

**In The Pipeline**

- Bulk Email Service
- IdPoLR - IdP of Last Resort
- Event Management System
- SMS Portal for University

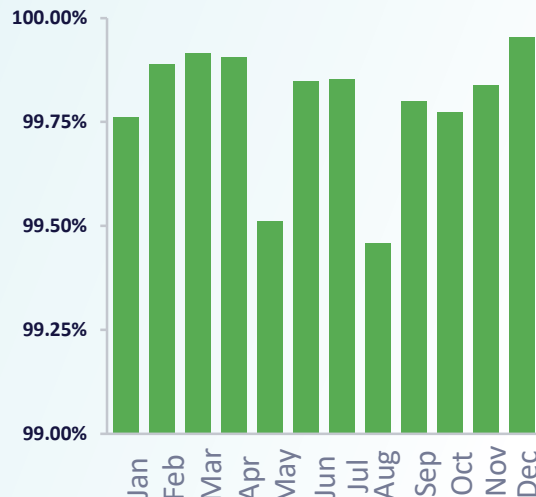


# Network and Service Statistics: Traffic, Utilization, Performance

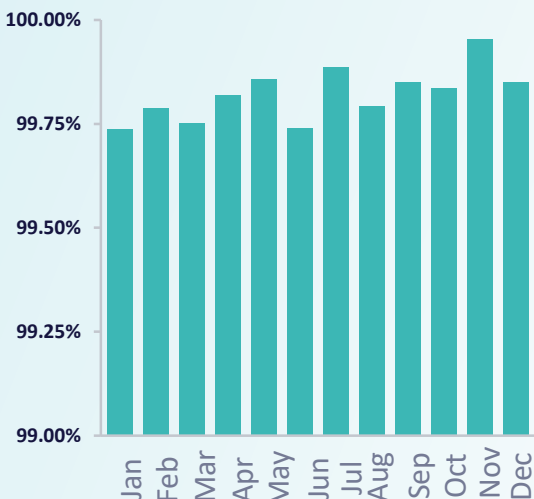
# Monthly Availability of Institutions



Jan-Dec 2020



Jan-Dec 2021



Jan-Dec 2022



Jan-Dec 2023



Jan-Dec 2020



Jan-Dec 2021



Jan-Dec 2022



Jan-Dec 2023

With no BTCL backup  
Average Monthly Outage:

2.45 hours

With no BTCL backup  
Average Monthly Outage:

1.51 hours

With partial BTCL backup  
Average Monthly Outage:

1.30 hours

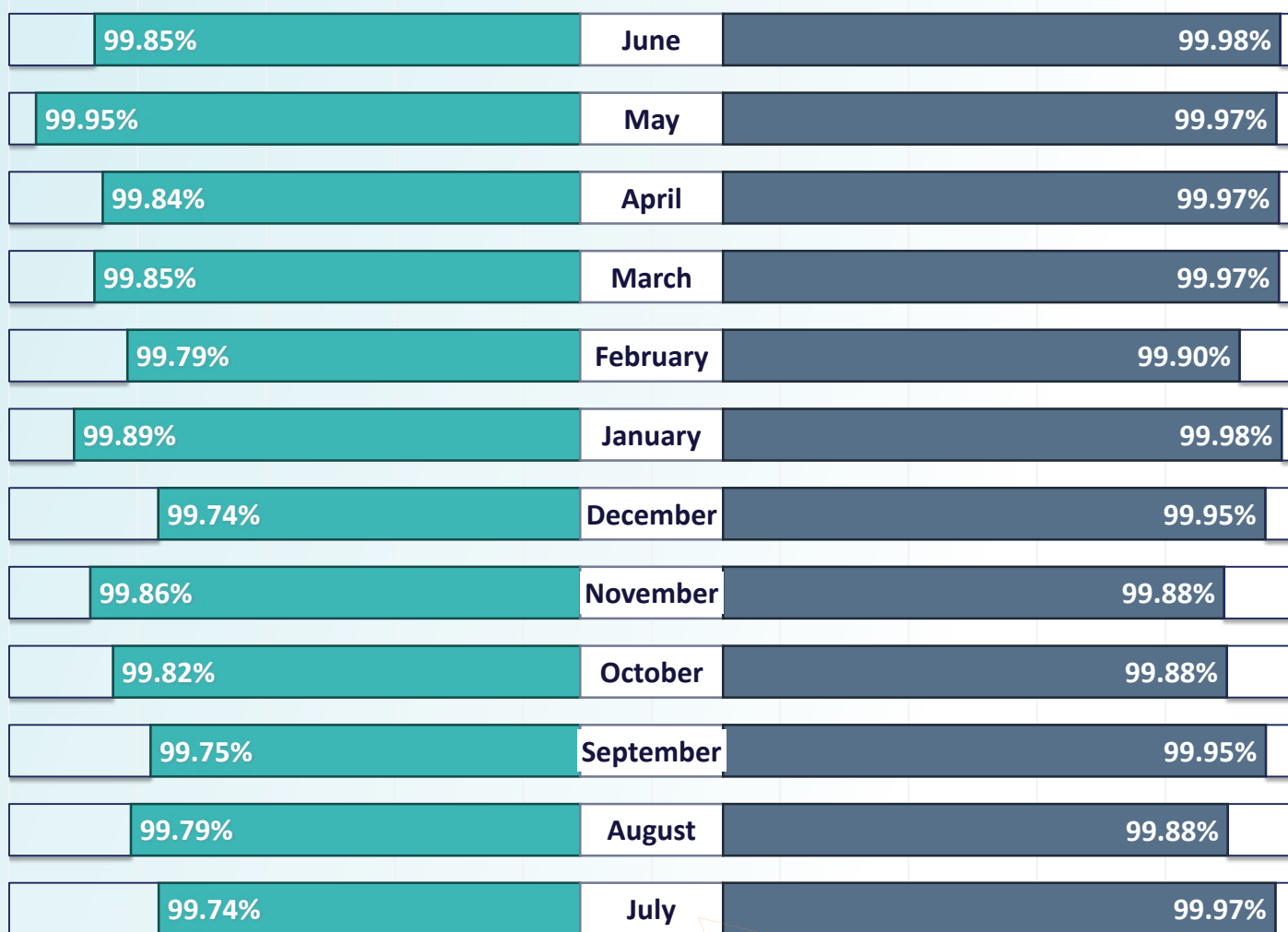
With full BTCL backup  
Average Monthly Outage:

26 minutes

# Monthly Availability of Institutions

Comparison of Availability between FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23

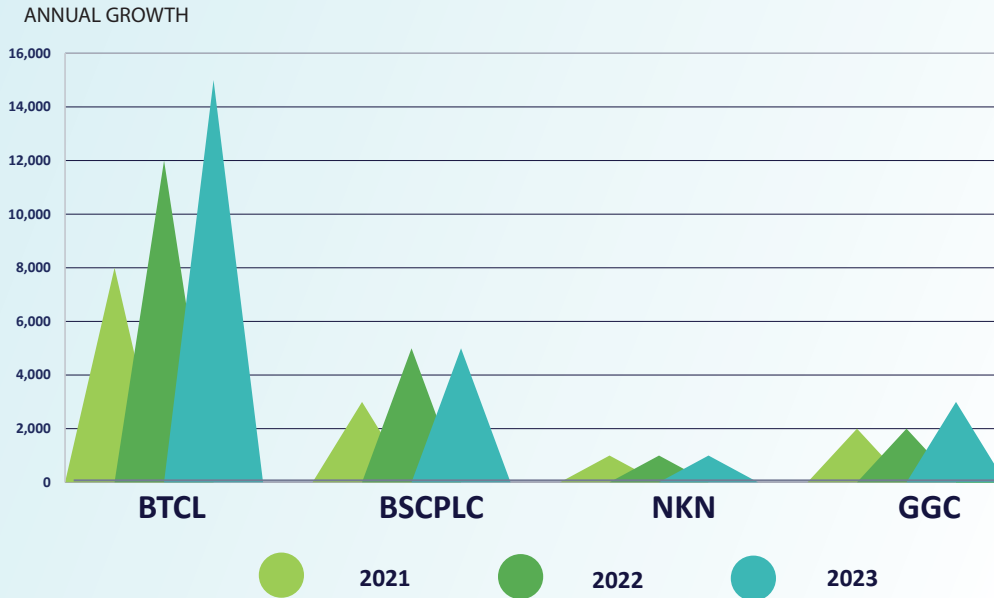
■ 2021-22 ■ 2022-23



100.00% 99.75% 99.50% 99.25% 99.00% 99.00% 99.25% 99.50% 99.75% 100.00%

# Growth of Upstream Bandwidth, Mbps

Over the years from 2021 to 2023

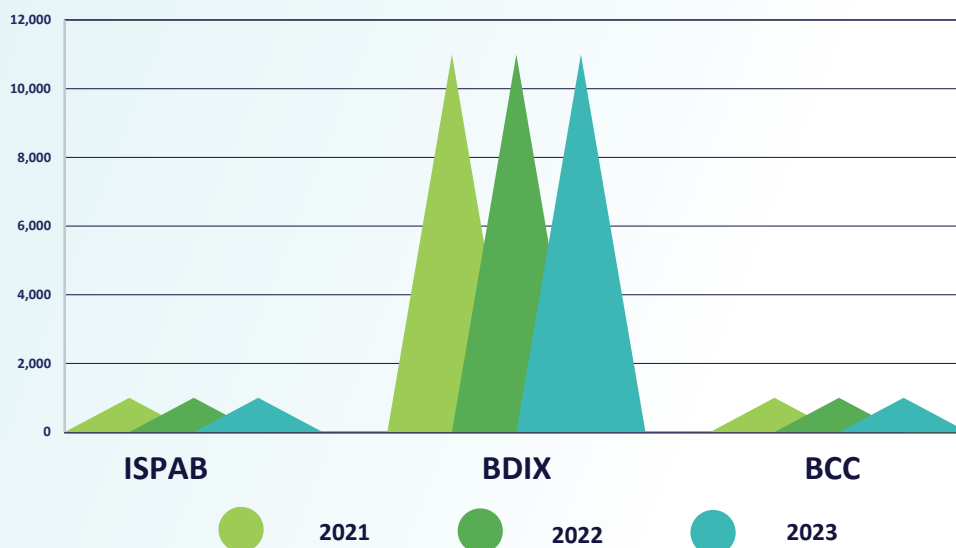


## Notes:

- 2021** Total Upstream Internet was 11Gbps with 1Gbps GREN connectivity with NKN and 2Gbps Google Cache
- 2022** Internet Connectivity surged to 17Gbps which was approximately 1.5 times of the previous year with Google Cache Traffic increased by 1Gbps
- 2023** Internet Traffic increased up to 20Gbps with an increment of 3 Gbps from previous year.

# Capacity of peering connectivity, Mbps

Throughout the period from 2021 to 2023

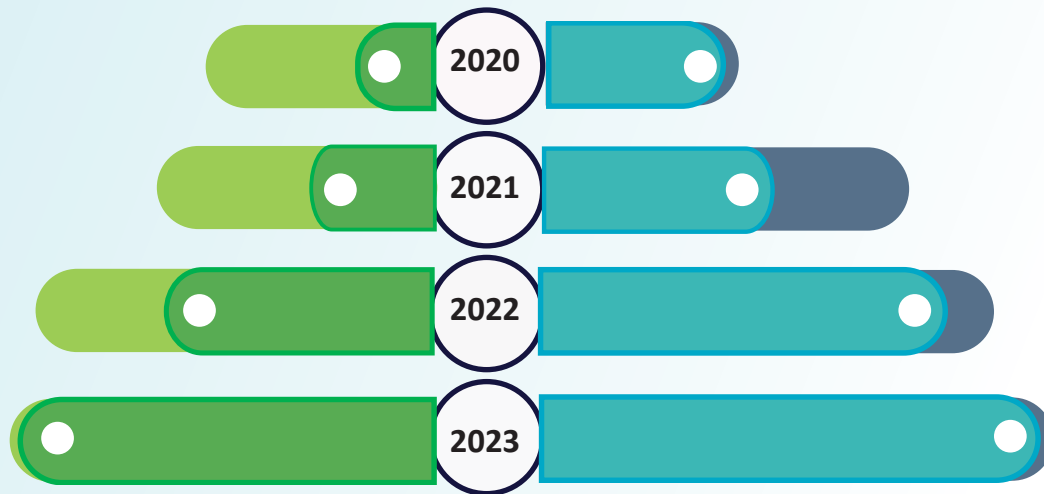


## Notes:

- 2021** Connectivity was established with BDIX [dual-redundant] and ISPAB as Internet Exchange operators. Bangladesh Computer Council was a peering connectivity.
- 2022** Connectivity with BDIX [dual-redundant] and ISPAB as Internet Exchange operators continued. Connectivity with Bangladesh Computer Council also continued.
- 2023** Connectivity with BDIX [dual-redundant] and ISPAB as Internet Exchange operators continued. Connectivity with Bangladesh Computer Council also continued.

# Data Center Resources and Utilization

## CPU and Memory



4000

3000

2000

1000

0

0

1875

3750

5625

7500

Number of Cores

Memory in Giga Byte



CPU Capacity



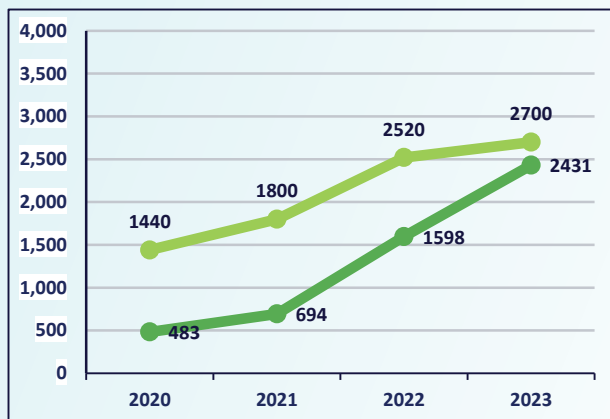
CPU Utilization



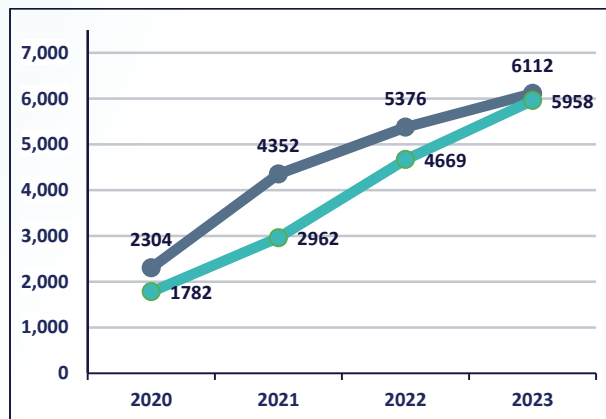
Memory Capacity



Memory Utilization



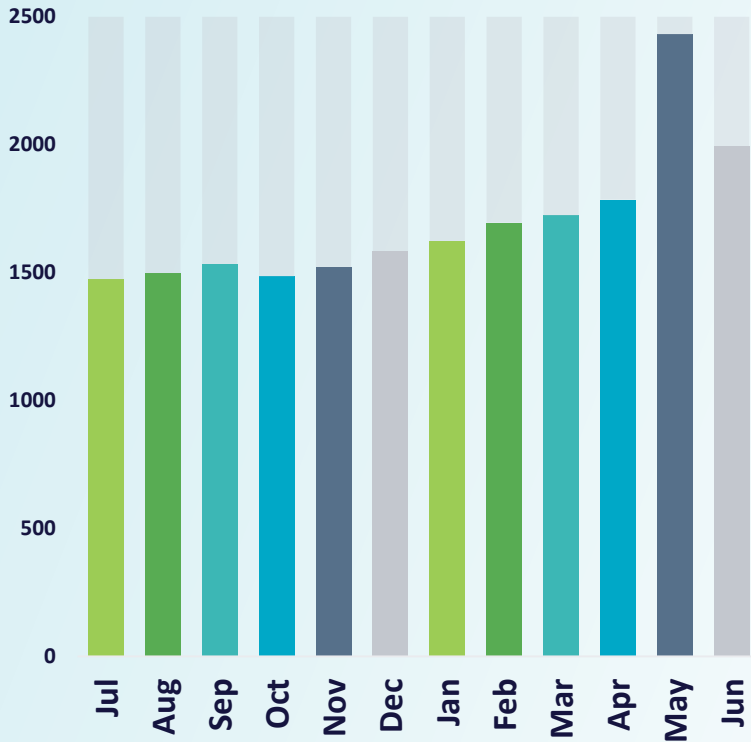
— CPU Capacity  
— CPU Utilization



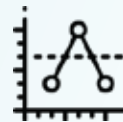
— Memory Capacity  
— Memory Utilization

# Month-wise CPU Utilization in GHz

Over the financial year 2022-2023



**Max: 2431 GHz**



**Avg: 1696 GHz**

Steady Growth of CPU usage over the year with maximum usage in May 2023

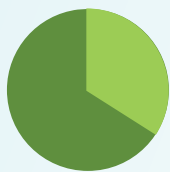
## CPU Utilization over the years

Steady growth from 2020 to 2023

**34%**

**FY 2019-20**

Total Resource: 1440  
Used Resource: 483



**32%**

**FY 2020-21**

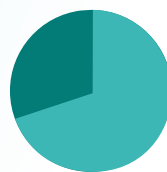
Total Resource: 2160  
Used Resource: 694



**63%**

**FY 2021-22**

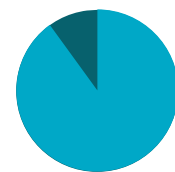
Total Resource: 2520  
Used Resource: 1598



**90%**

**FY 2022-23**

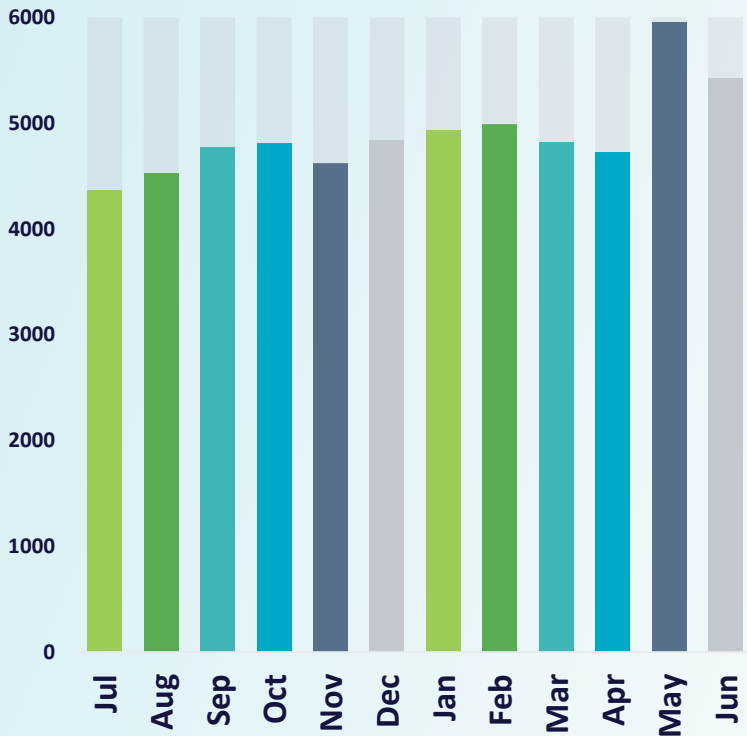
Total Resource: 2700  
Used Resource: 2431



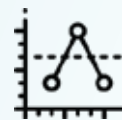
Notes: In terms of percentage utilization of Cores

# Month-wise Memory Usage in GB

Over the financial year 2022-2023



**Max: 5958 GB**



**Avg: 4899 GB**

Steady Growth of Memory usage over the year with maximum usage in May 2023

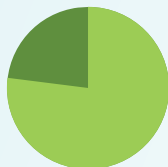
## Memory Usage over the years

Steady Growth from 2020 to 2023

**91%**

**FY 2019-20**

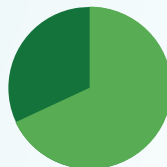
Total Resource: 2304  
Used Resource: 1782



**96%**

**FY 2020-21**

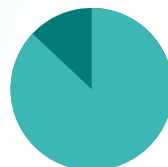
Total Resource: 4352  
Used Resource: 2962



**90%**

**FY 2021-22**

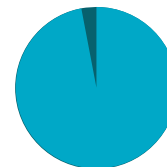
Total Resource: 5376  
Used Resource: 4669



**97%**

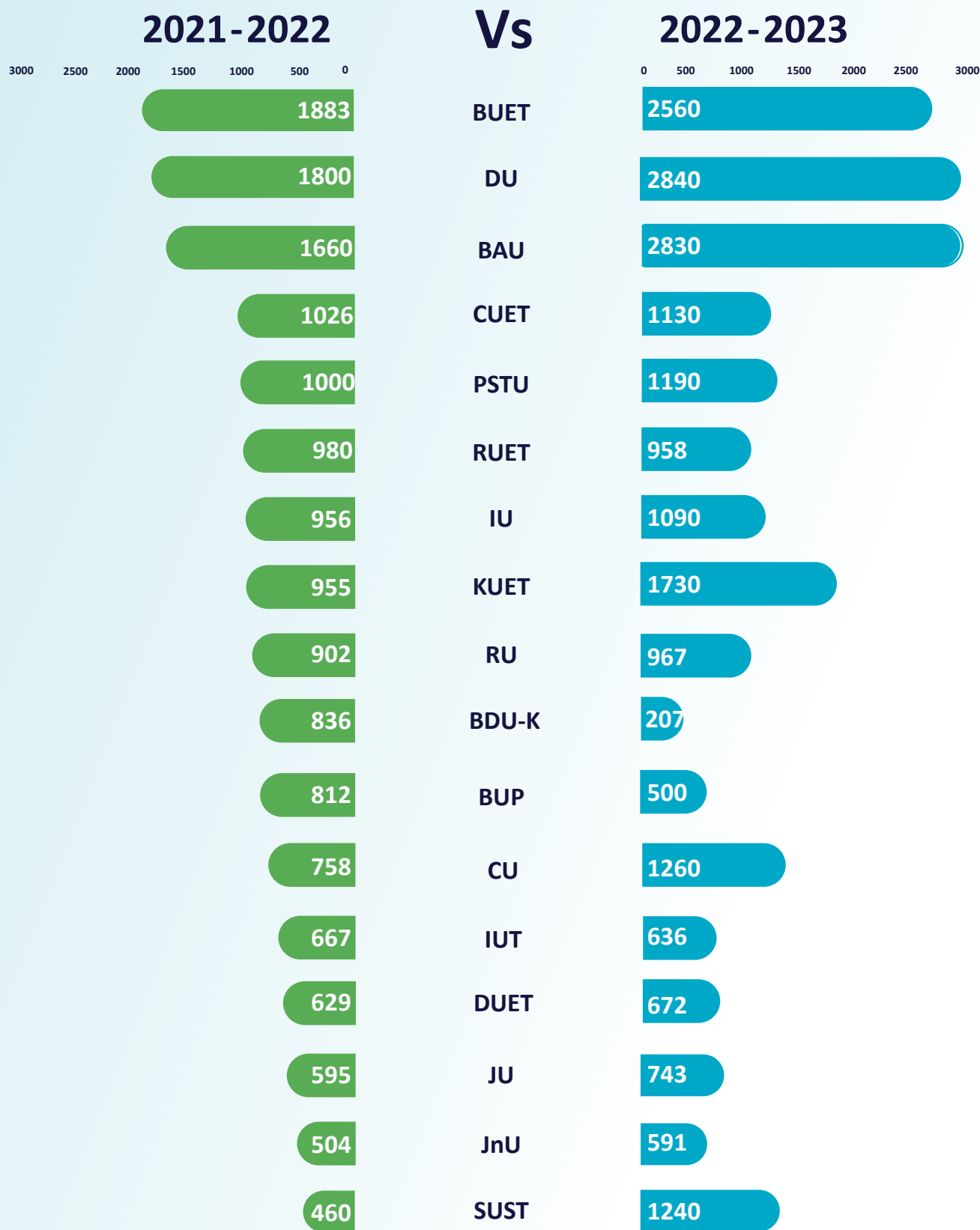
**FY 2022-23**

Total Resource: 6112  
Used Resource: 5958

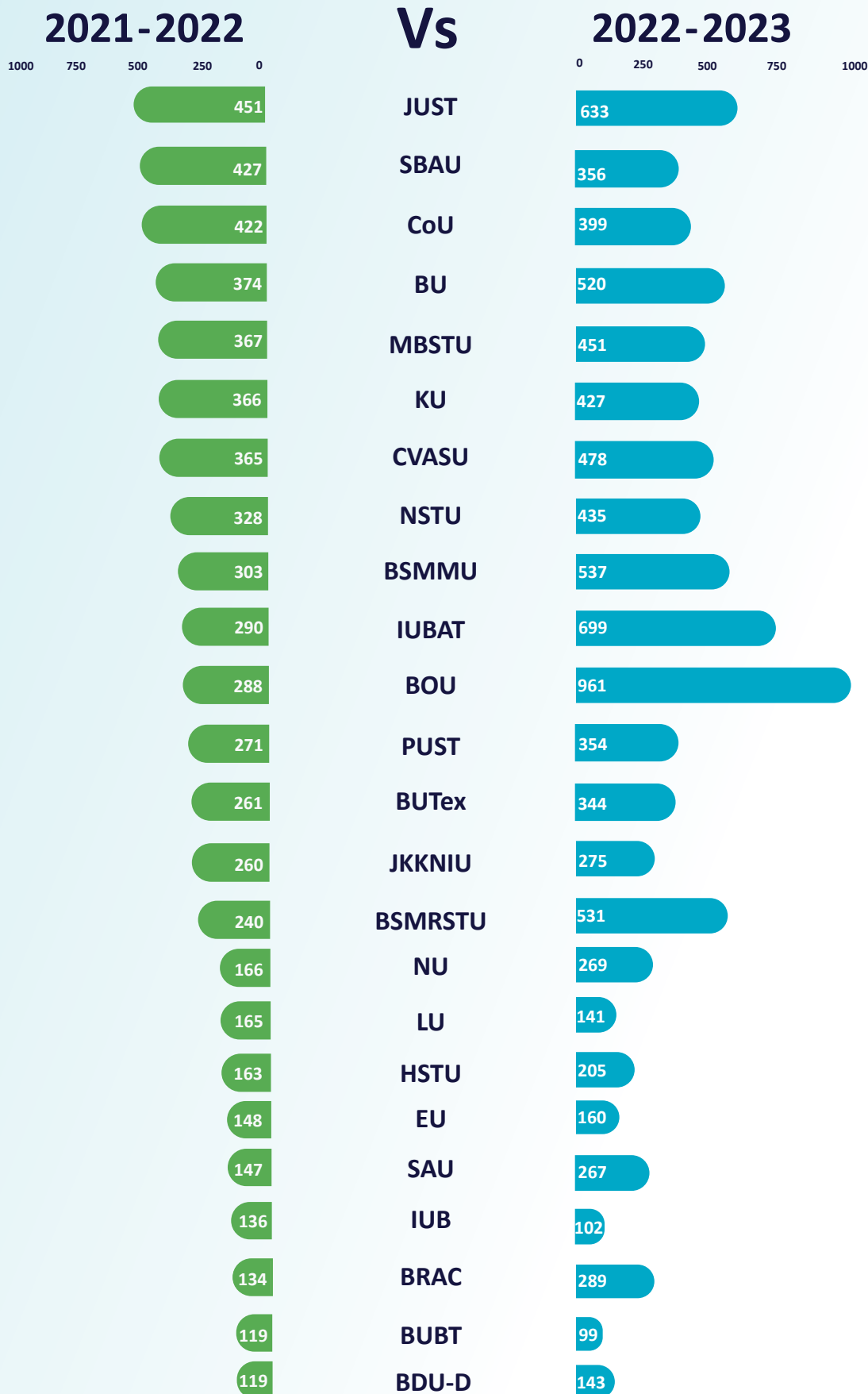


Notes: In terms of percentage utilization in Giga Bytes

# University-wise Comparison of Bandwidth, >500 Mbps



# University-wise Comparison of Bandwidth, <500 Mbps



# Institutional Throughput [Top-15], TB

Comparison between FY 2021-22 and 2022-23

## ANNUAL GROWTH



### Notes:

**2021-22** DU stands atop with 4982 TB of throughput

**2022-23** BAU stands atop with 5621 TB of throughput



## Customer Experience Case Story: Dedicated HPC Cluster for Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

### High Performance Computing



BdREN recently collaborated with Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) to deploy a dedicated High-Performance Computing (HPC) cluster. This cluster, comprising of 3 physical servers with 40-core vCPUs and 96 GB of memory per server, has been pivotal in supporting SUST's research and academic activities. BdREN ensured that the deployment was seamless, providing full administrative control of the virtualization platform to the SUST team, as per terms of the signed contract.

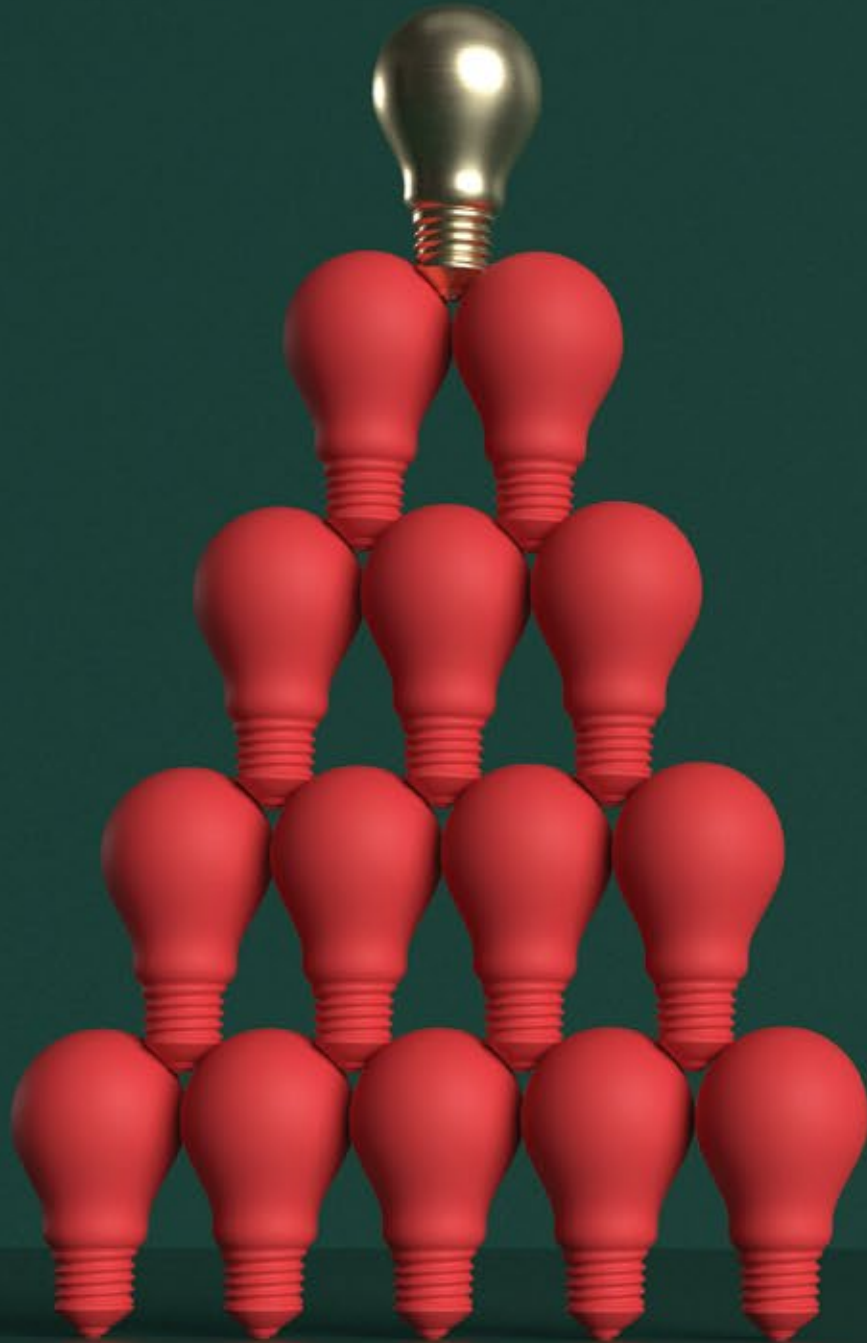
After the successful deployment of the cluster, one of the servers experienced a critical issue due to a RAID controller failure. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, BdREN's technical team worked diligently to resolve the issue promptly, restoring full functionality and minimizing downtime for SUST's eSigning service and other vital applications. The prompt intervention reaffirmed BdREN's commitment to providing top-tier support to its partners.

Following the incident, SUST expressed their appreciation:

*"We deeply appreciate your understanding and concern in taking measures to withstand the failure of the essential nodes of SUST and to ameliorate its subsequent fallout on our services. Your prompt response and necessary steps in resolving the matter through configuration of redundant servers in your Data Center were invaluable to ensure uninterrupted services to our faculty members, students, and other administrative staffs. Also, it will ascertain uninterrupted operations of the rendered services to other users of the applications. We are truly grateful to BdREN"*



**Professor Md Masum**  
Director- ICT Cell



# Stand-out Achievements



## Establishing connectivity to one of the most challenging terrains - A hurdle conquered



Rangamati Science and Technology University (RMSTU), located in the hilly and mountainous zone of the southeast part of Bangladesh bordering India on the east, was established in 2013 to support the marginalized and ethnic community in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

However, supporting the university students, faculty members and staffs with state-of-the-art technologies and services in that highly inaccessible zone has been a perennial challenge. Establishing high-speed internet connectivity stood topmost among all such challenges.

Overcoming the odds, the university started its operation with a bandwidth capacity of 50 Mbps from a local internet service provider. Not only was the bandwidth minimal for a student capacity of 500, but the connectivity was also unstable. There was no connectivity backup as the ISP was the lone service provider. The last mile connectivity - established through overhead cable and the core of the ISP - with low power backup - were principal sources of disruption of services.

RMSTU, the first university in the hilly region of Chittagong, stands on top of a hill overlooking the picturesque view of the free-flowing and all-encompassing Rangamati Lake, which embodies a scenic symbol of beauty and pride for the country.



The Honorable Vice-Chancellor approached BdREN to come up with a solution. The terrain was mountainous with rock-hard soil, making the laying of optical fiber cable increasingly difficult. The meandering route with frequent twisting and turning all its way and the slope of the highway in few places were real scares for the cable-laying operators which opted to use Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) technology. On top of that, the frequent erosion of soil barred the open-cut solution as the road authority declined to permit that method, apprehending the fallout of landslides from erosion of soils.

It is worth mentioning that BdREN is used to providing high-speed internet connectivity to universities using the Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) network of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh. In the case of RMSTU, the nearest PGCB site is situated around 14 km away at the far end of the city. BdREN made frequent surveys to figure out solutions like a combination of open-cut and underground, but it remained unmaterialized due to the challenging terrain.

Finally, BdREN could convince one of the operators to emerge from their shell and come forward to take the challenge. It was decided that for most of the route, the cable would be laid through HDD technology of very short lengths. The open-cut method would only be deployed if the terrain was too unsupportive. A survey drawing was prepared and submitted to the road authority for permission. The Honorable Vice-Chancellor herself took the leadership and convinced the local member of parliament about the justification and urgency of executing the task, which eventually resulted in getting permission from the road authority, but that also took months. The permission was conditional with BdREN taking responsibility for paying all sorts of compensation for any erosion of soil or damage to the road.

With close supervision from BdREN, the cable-laying operator started its work. As mentioned, the soil was too rocky, and each HDD shot - which normally goes 150 to 200 meters - could hardly work for more than 50 meters, and not more than two shots were possible per day. The local operator engaged two machines, one from the university side and one from the PGCB side and even then the progress was too slow. As Md. Kawser, BdREN's optical fiber technician engaged in supervision of the cable laying, says, "The soil being too rocky which compelled downsizing the length of the shots. The scarcity of water, a mandatory element for HDD, made the work even harder as the operator had to collect water from a few miles away using a special cart. Also, the high slope of the road in a few areas made it challenging to set up the HDD machine."

The problem didn't end there. One fine morning, it was reported that work had been stopped because the boring drill, along with the "sonde", which is used for guiding the drilling and of high cost, got stuck at a depth of 20 feet from ground level and became unrecoverable. This caused significant financial loss for the operator. BdREN decided to bear the damage and convinced the operator to re-start its work.

There were other unpredictable issues that were not apprehended at all. The area is dominated by ethnic terrorists who pose a threat even to law enforcement agencies. The latter don't dare creating any obstacles to the former's illegitimate and illegal business, let alone incarcerating them, apprehending that such measures might generate ethnic commotion. After a few days, when those extortionists learned that some sort of cable laying activity had started, which could generate a scope of business for them, they came out of nowhere, kidnapped one of the operator's workers, and started demanding ransom. The work stopped again. It was life-threatening for the operator and also for BdREN team, which was actively involved in the supervision of the operation. The law enforcement agency didn't want to intervene and requested BdREN to resolve the issue mutually. The situation was so scary that the BdREN employees were afraid of passing nights in that locality. However, after a series of bargaining and with the involvement of the RMSTU authority, the concerned employee was freed with the payment of a huge ransom and a commitment from the extortionists to allow the continuation of the work. As one of the representatives of the operator revealed "Each time I had been to the negotiation table, I used to be blind folded to the deepest part of the forest and once my eyes were opened, I used to find myself surrounded by armed personnel. It was so intimidating that the scare still haunts me. I had never experienced such horror in 15 years of my working in this industry".

Moreover, it was beyond imagination that this control of the extortionists was based on territory. Once the territory was crossed, it went under the control of another group, resulting in a renegotiation and repetition of the same process. Finally, with six months of rigorous and untiring efforts, the end-to-end connectivity was established.

As Prof. Dhiman Sarma, the dean of the computer science department, explained the situation: “I didn’t understand the challenge pertaining to the work initially. But as the work commenced, the representatives of the operator started approaching me time and again with various problems, seeking solutions from my end. One fine morning I found all the HDD machines at the RMSTU premises. Upon exploration, I discovered that the operators had been threatened by the local extortionists and were apprehensive that their machines might be damaged. I sought assistance from my registrar to communicate with the local personnel to resolve the issue. And somehow eventually with involvement and cooperation of the RMSTU higher authority, BdREN and the operator, the problem was resolved.”

Certainly, it was a challenge worth remembering as it resulted in many sleepless nights for BdREN officials. But as we see the happy faces of the university students and faculty members, all our pains and agonies disappear. Now the university has 1 Gbps internet connectivity, which was once a dream for the university personnel. As the Honorable Vice-Chancellor expressed in her own words “Many thanks to BdREN for accepting this challenge and for coming to support the students and the faculty members by providing a stable high-speed internet bandwidth that will enrich the teaching and learning environment at RMSTU. I will remain ever grateful to BdREN for making it happen, overcoming all the encumbrances, and expect that BdREN will assist in improving the infrastructure of the university in the future as well.”

This is one of the many examples of the challenges BdREN has taken on its journey to becoming one of the leading NRENs in the Asia-Pacific zone.





## HSIA becomes the First International Airport in Asia Pacific region to offer “eduroam” Service



### Deployment of Service

In a revolutionary move towards advancing education and fostering connectivity, Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN), in cooperation with the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) and in collaboration with ADN Technology, launched the eduroam service – a free Wi-Fi roaming for research and education community - at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This has become the first such instance in the Asian subcontinent.

The activation of eduroam at HSIA signifies a significant step forward for the research and education community. This enables the travelers to continue their academic and research pursuits without interruption, whether participating in remote lectures, accessing online resources, collaborating with colleagues, or online social interaction with their family or friends. The availability of “eduroam” at the airport unfolds many possibilities for research and education activities and promotes international cooperation and knowledge sharing

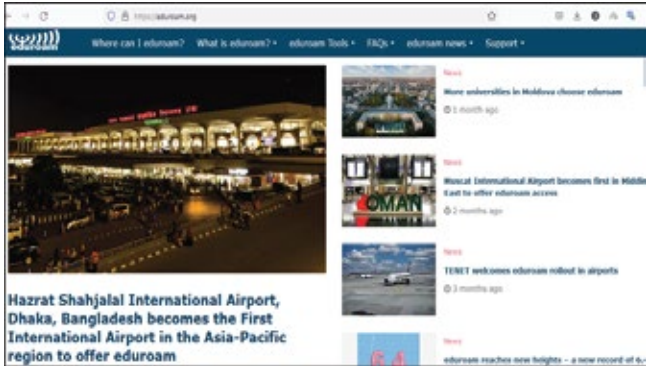
HSIA has become one among more than 30 international airports in the world that provide “eduroam” services to the travelers. Forging ahead with this successful enablement of “eduroam” service at HSIA, BdREN is looking forward to enabling “eduroam” service at other international airports in the country such as the Osmani International Airport, Sylhet, and the Shah Amanat International Airport, Chittagong. Then the local airports will be targeted. This is in line with CAAB's commitment to provide high-speed broadband internet access to the travelers.

Then the local airports will be targeted. This is in line with CAAB's commitment to provide high-speed broadband internet access to the travelers.

After enabling the eduroam service at HSIA, a notable number of national and international eduroam users have logged-in into the network during either their departure or arrival at HSIA. BdREN strictly maintains the security by recording the MAC addresses of the users who successfully log in to the system.

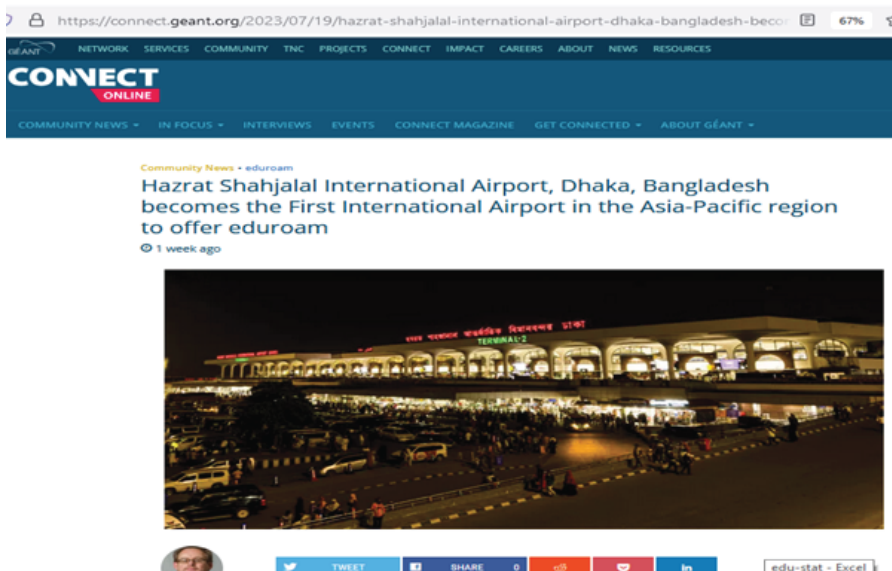
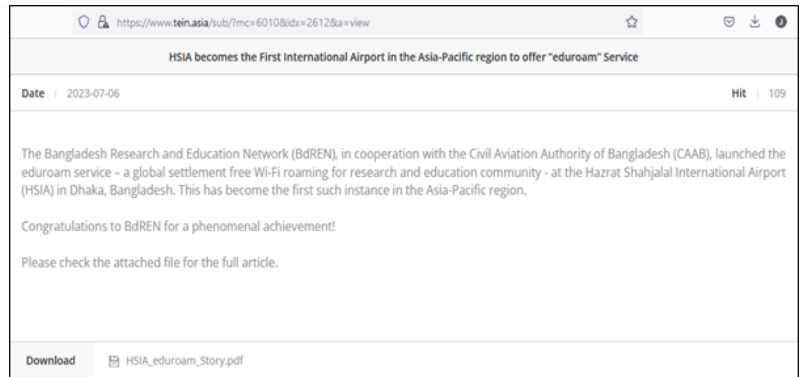
## Media Coverage

The activation of eduroam service at HSIA has been given a wide coverage on different global medias. Here goes some press releases on the activation of eduroam service at HSIA.

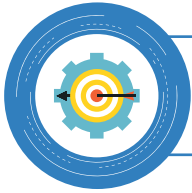


eduroam.org is the global site for eduroam, where they published the news. (<https://eduroam.org>).

TEIN\*CC (Trans-Eurasia Information Network Cooperation Center), a not-for-profit organization based in Seoul, Republic of Korea for managing and operating the regional Research and Education network (<https://www.tein.asia/main/?mc=0>) Asi@Connect of which BdREN is a member, published the news of this successful venture.



CONNECT ONLINE, from the GÉANT community: a magazine, a website and a weekly newsletter, published the news as well. GÉANT is the collaboration of European National Research and Education Networks (NRENs).



## BdREN's Strategic Shift to Proxmox: A Cost-Effective Game Changing Solution for BdREN Cloud Platform

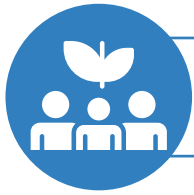


In the ever-evolving landscape of education in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) stands as a crucial pillar, ensuring that learning continues uninterrupted, even in the face of monumental challenges. The Covid-19 pandemic tested BdREN's resilience and ingenuity, forcing a rapid pivot to virtual education to maintain continuity for students nationwide.

During Lockdowns in the country as a fallout of the pandemic when all the universities were closed, BdREN came up with the Zoom Application solution for the universities to go ahead with online education. But due to clogging of the NORDUnet Data Center resulting from the huge traffic, BdREN implemented local Zoom infrastructure in its Data Center by deploying 250 virtual servers to handle peak demand. Initially, BdREN used VMware ESXi but the solution faced compatibility of hardware version and memory crunching issues. As an alternative, BdREN switched to Proxmox, an open-source virtualization platform, which resolved compatibility issues and improved resource efficiency by 1.5 times over VMware. Proxmox's lack of licensing fees and built-in backup system reduced costs further.

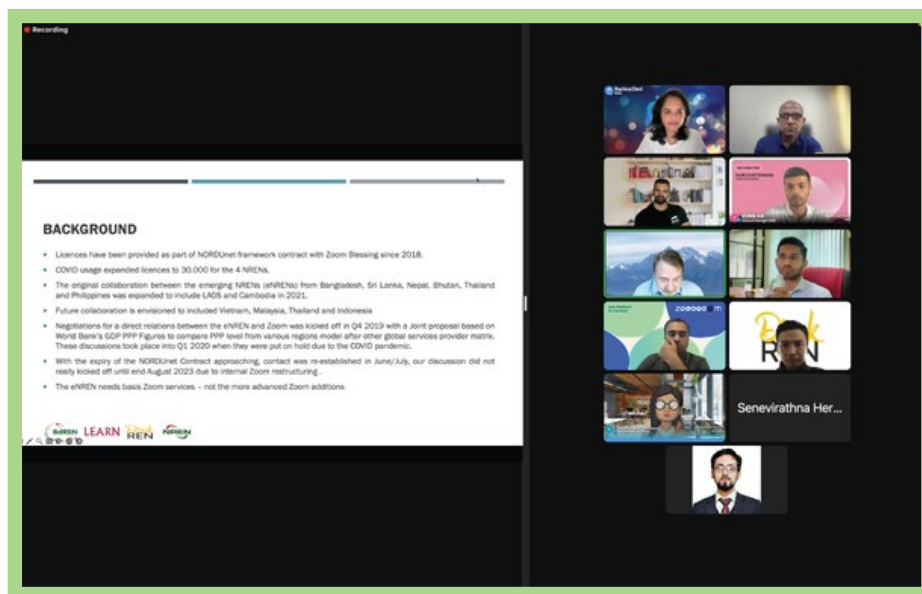
Furthermore, Proxmox is equipped with advanced features like Software Defined Networking (SDN), Software Defined Storage (SDS) and virtual firewalls. These capabilities allowed BdREN to build a full-fledged Software Defined Data Center (SDDC), providing a robust, secured and scalable infrastructure.

Today, BdREN's Data Center is moving forward with the activity of virtual machines powered by Proxmox. The shift to Proxmox symbolizes BdREN's commitment to innovation, efficiency and sustainability.

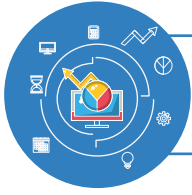


## Ensuring Sustainability of 'Zoom' through direct Negotiation

During APAN55, Valter Nordh, CEO, NORDUnet in a breakout session meeting gave an indication to CEO, BdREN and CEO, LEARN that it might not be possible for NORDUnet to continue with the contract for providing Zoom licenses free-of-cost till February, 2024 due to high renewal cost of the product. Finally, in early June 2023 NORDUnet informed BdREN and the other associated NRENs that NORDUnet was going to discontinue the Zoom Licenses from 01 September 2023. Initially it was like a bombshell, but BdREN and other NRENs quickly got out of their shock and started communicating with Zoom higher-ups sitting in the USA with assistance from René Buch, the former CEO of NORDUnet who offered himself to work as a pro bona consultant.



BdREN has already sat in a number of meetings with Zoom representatives, collected the initial offer and is negotiating for a total license of 31,000. The licenses will be mostly consumed by BdREN [15,000] and LEARN [15,000]. The rest 1000 will be shared by DrukREN and NREN. We are extremely hopeful about the prospect from the way the negotiation is proceeding with full-fledged assistance from René Buch whose years of expertise in professional negotiation is expected to play a key role in securing favorable terms for all the beneficiaries. It is expected that BdREN's share of the licenses with the faculty members of both public and Non-govt.universities will significantly enhance the capacity of universities to conduct virtual classes and meetings, especially during times of pandemic, natural disasters, political movements and other unsolicited closures of the universities. Moreover, the joint procurement by all the NRENs will enhance the bonding among the regional NRENs. Such cohesion among regional NRENs will facilitate in moving ahead with further joint initiatives resulting in favourable deals for the participating NRENs.



## Development of Financial Module Software for Corporate Houses

BdREN Software Team was directed to create an Accounting & Finance Module keeping its vision open for eventually emerging with an “ERP” application. The project was led jointly by Khandakar Rashedul Arefin, who headed the BdREN Software Team, which included Amitosh Gain, Punam Chowdhury, Satta Sundar Talukder, and Latifur Rahman. Dr. Mohammad Farooq Ali Tarafder FCMA, led the Finance & Accounts Team, comprising Khadizatul Kubra and Tanjum Tamanna. Work on the Accounting Module officially began on February 13, 2023, with a target launch date set for July 1, 2023.

Despite this ambitious timeline, the teams managed to complete the module ahead of schedule [by June 2023]. BdREN officially commissioned the Accounting Module on July 1, 2023 on the very first day of the new financial year. A critical player in the development process was Punam Chowdhury, who took the role of Lead Software Programmer. His close collaboration with the Finance & Accounts Team was essential to design and structure the module, ensuring its full alignment with BdREN's financial flow and procedures.



**Dr. Mohammad Farooq Ali Tarafder FCMA, ACS**  
**Chief Administrative & Finance Officer**

*The BdREN Accounting Module has truly revolutionized our financial processes, delivering enhanced financial operational clarity and precision. Its seamless interface, combined with intuitive features, not only simplifies everyday tasks like voucher posting, tracking, reconciliation and financial statements but also accelerates decision-making. By centralizing core financial functions, the module reduces administrative overhead and ensures consistent and reliable reporting. As we continue to refine and expand its capabilities, I'm confident this tool will set a new benchmark for operational efficiency within BdREN and beyond.*



**Khadizatul Kubra**  
**Assistant Manager-Finance & Accounts**

*"Our in-house software team has developed a customized Accounting Management Software Application specifically tailored to meet the data management needs of the BdREN Finance and Accounts team. Although it is still under development stage, the software has already proven to be much more effective than our previous system which was outsourced from a renowned software company. The newly developed application offers better control over internal operations, eliminating the need for external involvement. I hope that in the future, both our team members and other organizations can benefit from the resources we've built, as it has the potential to be a valuable asset for all."*



**Tanjum Tamanna**  
**Assistant Manager- Finance & Accounts**

*"BdREN's newly developed Accounting Management Application is having amazing impact in our financial management process. Its user-friendly features for Invoicing, preparing Journals and developing Reports have made the usage extremely easy. Moreover, integration of these features into a single platform is creating greater impact on ensuring efficiency and accuracy. It can be a real game changer for better decision making in the long run."*



## Wireless Network Design for East West University

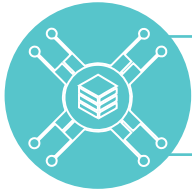
BdREN was entrusted to design a state-of-the-art Wi-Fi network for East West University, aiming to create a seamless and reliable wireless environment for students, faculty, and staff. The design process began at the end of May, 2023 and within a month [by end of June, 2023] BdREN came up with a comprehensive network diagram that meticulously estimated the number of access points, network switches, and other essential accessories required for full coverage across the campus. This is the first time an esteemed Non-govt. university trusted the capability of BdREN in designing its WiFi network.



**East-West University Campus**

To ensure optimal performance, BdREN engineers developed a detailed Wi-Fi heatmap, illustrating signal coverage in every corner of the university campus. The visual representations of the simulated WiFi Signal Coverage (Heat-Map) resulting from the Wi-Fi radio network of East West University is presented above.





## Customer Experience Case Story: Transition to TIGERfed for Securing Access to Academic Resources

Universities in Bangladesh are subscribing to e-resources from various sources or consortia. While most universities provide access from inside their campus, the high costs associated with off-campus access using remote access services allow only a few institutions to offer this facility. As a result, most of the universities are unable to use resources off-campus when needed.

BdREN's remote access service, TIGERfed, has emerged as a timely and cost-free solution for member universities. BdREN launched TIGERfed with the support of its IT engineers, and this service is poised to significantly improve access to academic resources for faculty and students from anywhere. By eliminating the financial burden of purchasing remote access solutions, TIGERfed allows seamless connectivity to global academic content. Moreover, the fact that this service is locally developed and managed by BdREN's own engineers is a symbol of excellence.

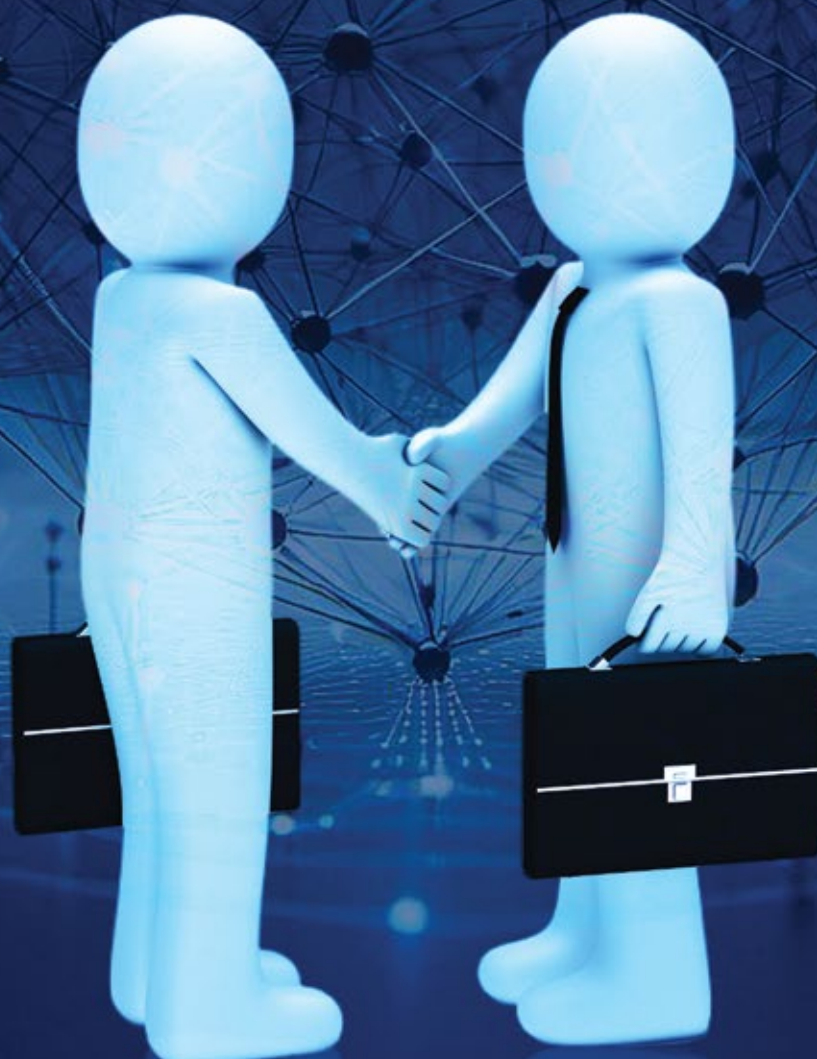
TIGERfed has reduced the reliance of the Universities on foreign software, a significant relief given the country's scarcity of foreign currency. The seamless integration and exceptional support from BdREN have made the transition to TIGERfed smooth, ensuring that users experience uninterrupted access to their essential academic resources.

*"The introduction of TIGERfed by BdREN has been a game-changer for the universities. It has not only alleviated the financial burden associated with the previous solutions but also streamlined access to critical academic resources for our faculty and students. The fact that this service is local and managed by our own engineers brings us immense pride and has significantly improved our ability to provide seamless access to global academic content. The entire transition process was handled smoothly, and the ongoing support from BdREN has been exceptional. We are truly satisfied with the impact TIGERfed has had on our institution, and I strongly encourage other universities to take advantage of this outstanding service." –*



**Dr. Anwarul Islam, Librarian, SAU**

# International Collaboration and Cooperation





## BdREN's Participation in APAN [Asia Pacific Advanced Network]

BdREN regularly contributes in APAN Community through Participating in APAN Meetings and Chairing Different Sessions

### Session Conducted by BdREN

August 2022: APAN54

Event Duration: 22-26 August 2022;

Host: China Education and Research Network [CERNET];

Venue: Hybrid event;



An on-line session titled “Comparison of transmission networks of NRENs belonging to developed and developing countries” was organized by BdREN at APAN54 at 16:30-17:30 (GMT+8) on 22 August 2022 virtually over Zoom Platform. It was an insightful session where Speakers from BdREN, DrukREN, PERN, CERNET, NORDUnet and KREONET spoke about their deployed network. LEARN gave a brief idea about their plan. 63 participants from 8 different countries participated in the session.



Event: APAN55

Duration: 13-17 March, 2023;

Host: Nepal Research and Education Network;

Venue: Kathmandu, Nepal;

Session: 13th Asi@Connect Governors' Meeting;

Date: 13 March, 2023

➤ Participants from BdREN:

- Mohammad Tawrit, CEO, BdREN on behalf of Governor
- Dr. Mohammad Farooq Ali Tarafder, CAFO, BdREN as Asi@Connect Steering Committee member.

### Session Attended by BdREN

Event: APAN55; Duration: 13-17 March 2023;

Session title: BGP Watch Portal - Its benefits and areas of improvement

Date: 14 March, 2023

Organised by: Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.

Speaker: Mohammad Tawrit, CEO, BdREN

Topic: “BGP Watch Portal - its benefits and areas of improvement”



### Session Conducted by BdREN

Event: APAN55; Duration: 13-17 March 2023;

Session title: NRENs' activities during pandemic and attained resilience

Date: 15 March, 2023.

Organised by: Bangladesh Education and Research Network in collaboration with LEARN, NREN and DrukREN

CEO-BdREN is delivering the introductory speech.



Rene Buch, ex-CEO NORDUnet being awarded with “Hall of Fame” award by Jennifer An, Chair, Asi@-Connect Steering Committee



Valter Nordh, CEO, NORDUnet being awarded with “Facilitator for emerging NREN” award by Sree Pramila Bajracharya, Honourable Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Nepal

## Collaborative Activities (at APAN55)



Meeting Honorable President, TEINCC



Meeting Valter Nordh, CEO, NORDUnet



Meeting Prof. Francis Lee [SingAREN], Lochan Lal Amatya and Dr. Rajan Parajuli [NREN]



CEO, BdREN speaking at the General Assembly as Lead Panelist, eNREN session

## Expression of exuberations from BdREN Participants



**Dr. Mohammad Farooq Ali Tarafder FCMA**

I tried my best to make a substantial contribution in APAN55, Kathmandu, where I, a) coordinated the program- "NREN's Activities during Pandemic and Attained Resilience", b) Contributed in the discussion on Strategic direction and management of Asi@Connect projects in the Asi@Connect Steering Committee, c) Contributed in safeguarding the interests of Least Developed Countries in the Asi@Connect Governors' meeting. I also contributed in re-inforcing BdREN's position within APAN Community during Annual General Meeting of APAN. In the Plenary sessions I contributed with insights on Critical Issues impacting Global Research & Education Network eco-system.



**Md. Ariful Islam**

I had the privilege of attending APAN 55 Meeting that took place at Kathmandu, in March 2023. As a resource person, I demonstrated the user manual of the 'BGP Watch' Platform developed under APNIC/ISIF led by Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. BdREN prepared the manual under a separate MoU between BdREN and Tsinghua University. I had an amazing experience in leading the session, and I appreciate the recognition that BdREN received from both the beneficiary NRENs community and the project for doing an excellent job. The BdREN team even received special attention at the special dinner from the ISIF project, which also delighted us. Overall, it was a fantastic experience, and I am grateful to BdREN for allowing me to attend the APAN 55 meeting.



**Shamim Ahmed**

My visit to APAN55 in Kathmandu, Nepal, was my first international trip and in-person participation at an APAN meeting. During the event, I attended workshops focused on RPKI and MANRS deployment, and engaged in network engineer working group meetings, where I learnt about network operational practices across various NRENs in the Asia-Pacific region. Following these sessions, I initiated the deployment of an RPKI validation server in the BdREN network and began implementing MANRS Action-2 and Action-3, complementing the previously implemented Action-1 and Action-4. This experience not only broadened my technical knowledge but also introduced me to new cultures and people from around the world.



**Abu Naser Md. Nafew**

As a fellow at APAN55, I had the privilege of attending various workshops, talks, and sessions on advanced networking, cloud computing, cybersecurity, and identity management. A key highlight was participating in the session "NREN Activities during the Pandemic and Attained Resilience," organized by BdREN in collaboration with several other NRENs. I had insightful discussions with experts, including Terry Smith (AAF) and Jamie Gillespie (APNIC), which broadened my understanding of federation roadmaps and event production tools. The event provided valuable opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange, and I look forward to applying these insights to my work at BdREN.



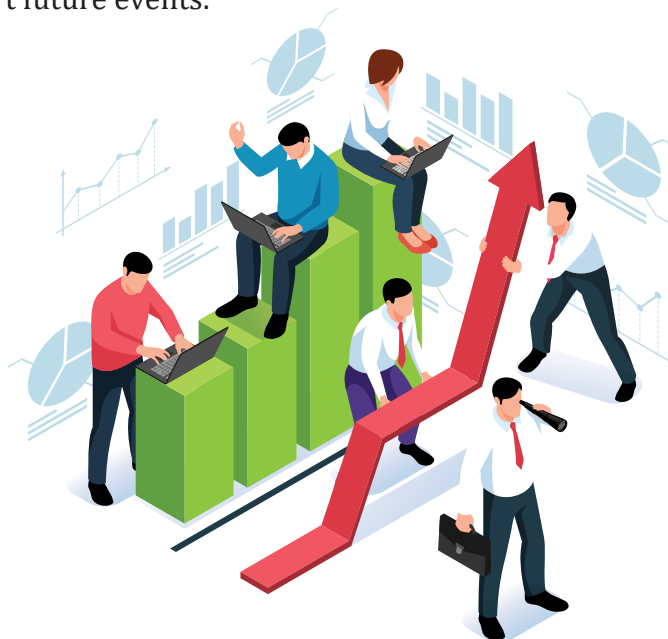
## BdREN to Sponsor APAN56 in Colombo, Sri Lanka: A Significant Step Towards Collaborative Networking



BdREN marked a milestone by giving its concurrence to sponsor the APAN56 event, to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from August 21 to 25, 2023. As a National Research and Education Network (NREN) partner, BdREN's involvement highlights its commitment to regional and global networking collaboration. APAN56, a major conference for the Asia-Pacific Advanced Network community, provided a platform for addressing advanced networking challenges and opportunities.

BdREN's sponsorship aims to strengthen ties with Lanka Education and Research Network (LEARN) and to support digital initiatives and research collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region. BdREN has decided to further contribute to LEARN's initiative through registration of onsite and online participants and by partially sponsoring the travel costs of a faculty member who has been selected to attend APAN56 as a distinguished "Fellow."

This partnership underscores BdREN's role in advancing technology and academic innovation and encourages other NRENs to support future events.



# Listening to Members' Voice



# BdREN Arranges Regular Meetings and Workshops with the Member Institutes to Improve Cooperation and Collaboration

## Meet & Greet Workshop- Dhaka

The much anticipated first phase of the meet and greet workshop was held on August 10, 2022 at the UGC auditorium. 80+ representatives from different universities and Research Institutes joined the event. The acting Chairman of UGC and Vice Chairperson of BdREN Prof. Dr. Dil Afroza Begum graced the event as the “Chief Guest”. Prof. Dr. Abu Taher, Member, UGC and Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Member, UGC were present as “Special Guests”.



The event was inaugurated with a welcoming speech from Mohammad Tawrit, Chief Executive Officer, BdREN. Then, both the Special Guests imparted their valuable speech which caught much attention of the audience. Following that, Prof. Dr. Dil Aforza Begum delivered her insightful speech as the Chief Guest. She narrated the vision of BdREN with the associated challenges that need to be overcome to achieve that vision. She also urged the representatives from member institutes to make maximum utilization of BdREN resources and enjoy a better quality of services.

## Meet & Greet Workshop- Rajshahi

BdREN organized a “Meet and Greet” workshop where BdREN invited distinguished representatives from BdREN’s existing and potential member institutes located in and around Rajshahi. The program was held at the Banquet Hall of Hotel Grand River View in Rajshahi from 09.30 am to 2.00 pm on October 19, 2022. Prof. Dr. Biswajit Chanda, the Honorable Member, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, graced the occasion as ‘Chief Guest’.



In the concluding session, the participants shared their thoughts and suggestions for betterment of BdREN services.

The workshop was organized aiming to meet and greet the respected representatives from the reputed member institutes as well as to share ideas among the participants for better cooperation and collaboration in the future. The Chief Technical Officer, BdREN led a team comprising of a bunch of energetic and enthusiastic BdREN officials to make the program a grand success

The event was widely covered in the national electronic and print media.

Prof. Dr. Golam Shabbir Sattar, the Honorable Vice-Chancellor, University of Rajshahi, Prof. Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, the Honorable Vice-Chancellor (Additional-Charge), Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology and Prof. Dr. M. Osman Gani Talukder, the Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Varendra University were present as ‘Special Guests’.

## Meet & Greet Workshop- Chattogram



On December 7, 2022, BdREN organized its third 'Meet & Greet' workshop, at Radisson Blu hotel, Chattogram. BdREN arranges this 'Meet & Greet' event to exchange views with its member institutes in the education and research sectors for identifying new areas of cooperation as well as for bridging the gap with its members.

Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, the honorable Member of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh honored the chair as 'Chief Guest' on this occasion. The 'Chief Guest' rendered his valuable speech on the very important topic of how UGC, BdREN and higher education institutes can work together to effectively implement digital transformation in higher education sector.

Prof. Dr. Md. Ismail Khan, Vice-Chancellor of Chattogram Medical University who was present as 'Special Guest', highlighted the importance of Digitization in the Higher Education and Research sector and gave his valuable advice to the educational institutes to carry forward the digital transformation with the help of BdREN and UGC. The other honorable dignitaries who were present as Special Guests at the workshop were Professor Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Alam, the honorable Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, and Professor Dr. Md. Nural Anwar, the honorable Vice Chancellor of Port City International University. Besides, Professor Dr. A.F.M. Abdul Moyeen, the honorable Vice Chancellor of Cumilla University was present online as 'Special Guest' and shared his valuable ideas and thoughts.



# Arranging Trainings, Workshops, Industrial Visit



## Workshop: Enriching Higher Education Leveraging BdREN Resources



On November 16, 2023, BdREN hosted a workshop titled “Enriching Higher Education Leveraging BdREN Resources” at the UGC Auditorium in Dhaka. The event brought together Vice-Chancellors, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, and other key officials from 32 Non-govt. universities to explore BdREN’s services and foster collaboration.

Prof. Dr. Biswajit Chanda – Honorable Member, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest, and Mr. Omar Faruque, Director of Private University Division, UGC, attended as a special guest. BdREN CEO Mohammad Tawrit provided an overview of BdREN’s services and its university-led governance structure. Presentations by CTO Ekhlash Uddin Ahmed and Manager Khandakar Rashedul Arefin detailed BdREN’s offers, including Zoom, Cloud Services, and more.

Mr. Omar Faruque encouraged active engagement with BdREN’s services and suggested more direct outreach to universities. Prof. Chanda praised BdREN’s services and its role in advancing university capabilities. The workshop concluded with group discussions aimed at refining BdREN’s services based on participant feedback.

## Industrial Visit of students, CSE Department, NITER at BdREN Data Center



Students from the department of Computer Science and Engineering of the National Institute of Textile Engineering and Research (NITER) participated in a two-day industrial visit to BdREN. The program, was inaugurated by CTO Ekhlash Uddin Ahmed who presented

insightful information on network and system administration, virtualization, and network monitoring. Renowned media personality Ferdous Bappy also gave a motivational talk on life skills and professional fulfillment.

The visit featured presentations by BdREN Network Engineers and a tour of BdREN’s Data Center, offering practical insights into BdREN’s network operation and maintenance. The students left with enhanced knowledge and enthusiasm. Following the event, NITER expressed its gratitude to BdREN for the latter’s support in bridging academia and industry.

## Workshop with Public Universities: Installation and Administration of On-prem Video Conferencing Platform



A Five (5) day long Capacity Development Program on the “Installation and Administration of On-prem Video Conferencing Platform” was held from 08 to 12 Jan 2023 with the participation of the Network Engineers from the public universities. The event was organized to enable the Network Engineers, working at the ICT Cell of the universities, to administer BdREN’s On-Prem Zoom Services in their respective institutes.

## Workshop with SIFULAN: Setting up Shibboleth IdP-as-a-Service

SIFULAN, Malaysian Access Federation team, visited Bangladesh from 18 to 22 June, 2023 to help TIGERfed-BdREN to set up Shibboleth IdP-as-a-Service. Along with BdREN Engineers a few engineers from Member NRENs [BUET, DU and BAU] participated in the capacity development workshop. The Capacity development program was organized under iFIRE project financed by Asi@Connect. The training program prepared BdREN to provide the Federated services from a more flexible and easily configurable platform.



# Events And Meetings



## Introducing Federated Access Solution for eJournals at BUET



An awareness development session was organized at the Distance Learning Theater, IICT, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology [BUET] on 02 April 2023. In the demonstration session the ease and benefits of federated access was presented thrusting particular focus on journal access using the power of federation.

It was revealed to the audience that BdREN has already established a federation titled “TIGERfed” for research and education community in Bangladesh. The said federation is able to integrate multiple “Service providers” (SPs) and “Identity Providers” (IdPs) in the same platform leading to improved security, single-sign-on (SSO) facility and most notably ease of both “On-campus” and “Off-campus” access.

The session was attended by a few of the high officials of BUET including Directors of both IICT and ICT cells, representatives from BUET library and System Administrator, BUET.

In the session, the ease and secured access of Journals for the faculties and researchers of BUET was specifically demonstrated and the advantages of such access over traditional access methodology was presented. It was also mentioned that once BUET becomes part of the federation, the access to other services such as- Zoom, LMS and Cloud Storage can also be made available through the same platform.

The concept of federation was well-understood by the audience. At the end of the presentation session, Director, IICT advised CEO, BdREN to send a letter to honorable Vice-Chancellor, BUET requesting the latter to join TIGERfed. Once the nodding is received, the implementation, configuration and testing of BUET’s faculty members’ access to the journals using federation may be accomplished.

Ekhlas Uddin Ahmed, CTO, BdREN and Kh. Rashedul Arefin, Manager (Data Center), BdREN accompanied CEO, BdREN in the presentation session.

## BdREN Signs an Agreement with BSMRSTU for Maintenance of Campus Network



An agreement was signed between BdREN and BSMRSTU on 03 April 2023 at the Vice-Chancellor’s Office in BSMRSTU, Gopalganj. The agreement was signed by Honorable Registrar, BSMRSTU and CEO, BdREN from respective sides.

Under this agreement BdREN has been assigned with the responsibility of maintaining the campus network built under G.74-AF package of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP). The maintenance package contains repair and replacement services of all the equipment and accessories delivered under the said package. Also under the contract one data technician was deployed in the BSMRSTU campus for providing full-time maintenance services.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Prof. Dr. A. Q. M. Mahbub, Vice-Chancellor, BSMRSTU; Dr. Mohammad Farooq Ali Tarafder FCMA, CAFO, BdREN; Md. Ariful Islam, Manager (Data and Transmission), BdREN; B.M. Ariful Islam, System Analyst, BSMRSTU and other distinguished faculty members.

Honorable Vice-Chancellor expressed his expectation that the amicable relationship between BSMRSTU and BdREN will be strengthened through signing of this contract. Moreover, the honorable Vice-Chancellor hoped that the contract would allow BdREN in extending additional services even beyond the purview of the contract.

## **BdREN Signs Agreement with National University, for Implementing 'College Education Development Project (CEDP)'**

On March 30, 2023, a kick-off meeting was held with stakeholders of the College Education Development Project (CEDP) at the UGC Auditorium in Agargaon. The meeting marked the start of the project implementation by BdREN, following the signing of a partnership agreement with National University which was inked earlier in the month.



Representatives from 13 beneficiary colleges of the CEDP in the capital, along with representatives from the World Bank, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, National University, and the CEDP itself, attended the meeting. The event was hosted by BdREN being the project implementing entity.

The program was presided over by Mohammad Tawrit, the Chief Executive Officer of BdREN, who provided insights into the agreement clauses to help the beneficiaries better understand the project nature. Md. Ariful Islam, Manager of Data and Transmission at BdREN and Project Manager, presented a detailed overview of BdREN network across the country through which the IDG colleges will be connected.

Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Member of UGC and Board of Trustee at BdREN, graced the meeting as the 'Chief Guest'.

## BdREN Signs Agreement with CME for Installing a Video Conference Room



The signing ceremony of the agreement for installing a video conference room at 'Centre for Medical Education (CME)' premises was held on January 17, 2023 at 01.00 pm at the CME office. Under this agreement, BdREN was supposed to plan, install and manage a Video Conferencing Room at CME

The event was inaugurated with the opening speech from Prof. Dr. Syeda Shahina Subhan, Director, CME who shared her gratitude to BdREN for extending the latter's hand of cooperation and also gave a warm welcome to the representatives from BdREN.

Following her speech, Prof. Dr. Titu Miah, Honorable Director General of Directorate General of Medical Education (DGME), imparted his speech and acknowledged BdREN's contribution in providing digital services to the researchers and academics of the country. Both DG and Director CME assured BdREN that they would intimate the medical colleges of the country to properly utilize BdREN facilities at their respective premises.

Then, Mohammad Tawrit, the Chief Executive Officer of BdREN delivered his brief speech highlighting BdREN's effort focusing the government medical colleges across the country.

The agreement was signed by Mohammad Tawrit, CEO, BdREN on behalf of BdREN and Prof. Dr. Titu Miah, Honorable Director General, DGME, on behalf of CME. Apart from Director, CME the signing ceremony was graced by the presence of Dr. Md. Rajib AL Amin, DPM (Admin and Finance), MEHMD, DGME, and Dr. Mohammad Abu Sayeed Talukder, Assistant Professor.

## A workshop on e-Filing systems was conducted at BUET

BdREN has successfully conducted a workshop on e-Filing systems at BUET. Honorable Vice-Chancellor of BUET and CEO of BdREN were present in the occasion.



## Meeting with the World Bank on Progress of Various Projects

Representatives of the World Bank on implementation of the Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation [HEAT] Project and College Education Development Project [CEDP] met with BdREN officials from time to time for effective planning and implementation of the project activities.



Date: 21 June 2023



Date 24 May 2023

## Recognition of Special Contribution at Workplace

BdREN awarded H.M. Mohidul Islam, an ex-official of BdREN and now working as ICT professional in Dhaka University, in recognition of his contribution to the development of “vSession” application in BdREN under the ‘facilitating Distance Learning using Digital Conferencing facility’ (fDLuDCf) project. The application was instrumental in managing the soaring demand of Zoom accounts with a limited amount of Zoom Premier licenses. (April 06, 2023)



Mr. Amitosh Gain, Software Programmer was acknowledged for his development of the e-file application.



# BdREN Sponsored bdNOG15 Conference in Gold Category

The 15th edition of the Bangladesh Network Operators Group (BdNOG15) took place from December 9 to 12, 2022, at Hotel Sarina in Dhaka, bringing together industry experts and network operators to discuss advancements in the field of internet connectivity and technology. The event served as an important platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration among professionals in the sector.

BdREN (Bangladesh Research and Education Network), a pivotal player in fostering internet infrastructure in the country, sponsored the event in the gold category. This sponsorship reflects BdREN's commitment in supporting the growth of the digital landscape in Bangladesh as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

As part of its participation, BdREN sent three engineers to the event, enabling them to engage with industry leaders and gain insights into the latest trends and technologies in networking. These engineers participated in various sessions, workshops, and discussions, enhancing their skills and knowledge, which they can utilize to improve services and drive innovation within BdREN and the broader community.



**Co-Host**



**Platinum Sponsors**



**Fellowship Sponsors**



**Gold Sponsors**



**In-Kind**



**Supported By**



**15**

**CONFERENCE ON**

**INTERNET OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

Dhaka  
DECEMBER 09-12, 2022

## Meetings of BdREN Board of Trustees

BdREN is operated by Board of Trustees and the honorable members meet together to take policy level decisions, to track the progress of planned activities, to oversight the revenue earnings and expenses and to advise and guide the execution team.



37th BoT Meeting (08 August 2022)



38th BoT Meeting (26 September 2022)



40th BoT Meeting (17 November 2022)



41st BoT Meeting (13 December 2022)



42nd BoT Meeting (24 January 2023)



43rd BoT Meeting (28 February 2023)

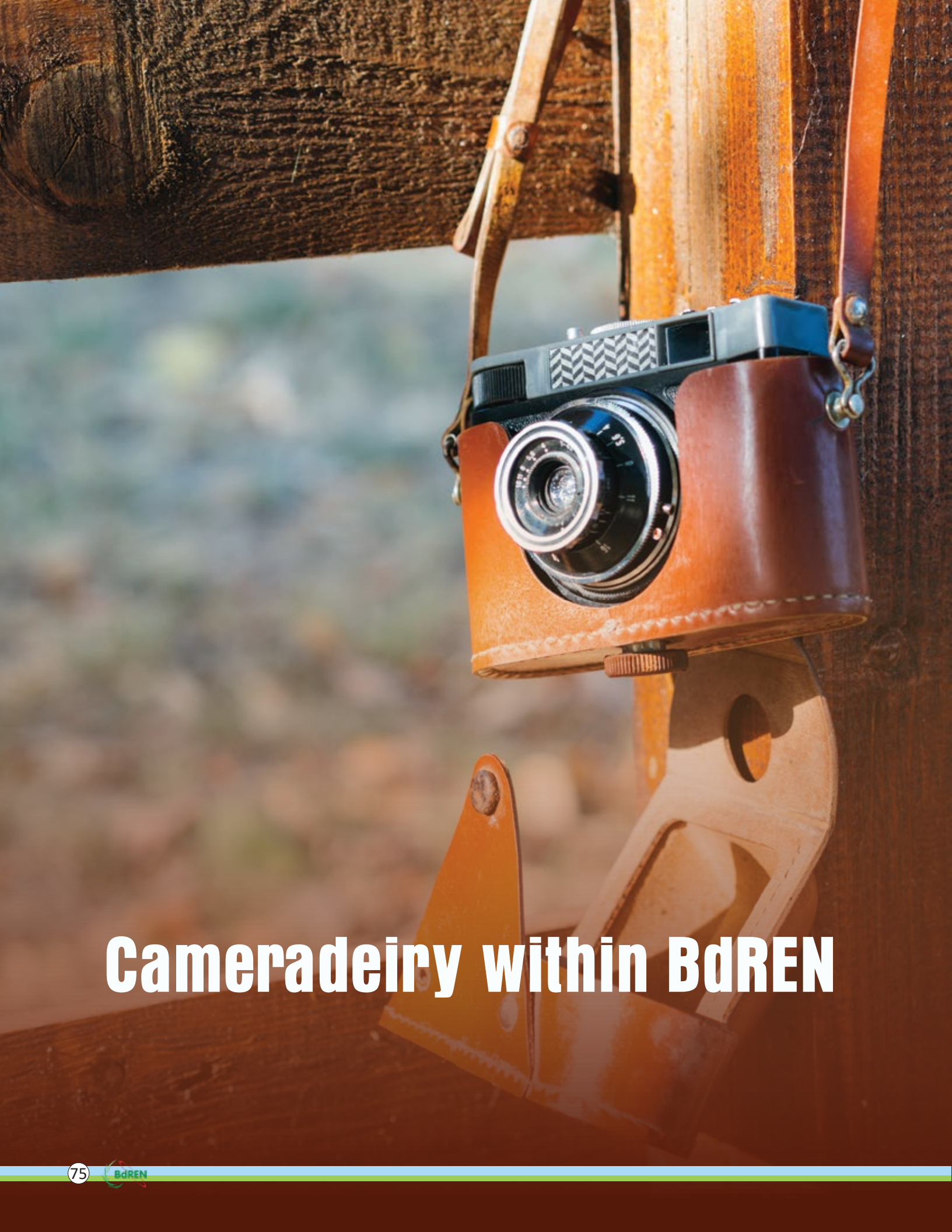


44th BoT Meeting (15 May 2023)



45th BoT Meeting (22 June 2023)





# **Cameradeiry within BdREN**

## Friendly Cricket and Football Match with BdREN's Partner Organizations

Cricket, being the most popular sports in Bangladesh, is played by people from all walks of life. With BdREN being no exception, friendly Cricket Matches are often arranged with Partner Organizations during winter. In such an initiative Team BdREN played a friendly Cricket Match against Spectrum Consortium Limited on January 07, 2023 which the former won comprehensively.



January 07, 2023 at Shaheed Zayan Chowdhury Park, Banani

BdREN Cricket Team



Intra Departmental Friendly Football Match held on December 23, 2022 at Chef Table Courtyard, Dhaka.

# BdREN's Annual Picnic - 2023

**Event: February 10 & 11, at Dream Square Resort, Gazipur**

BdREN's annual picnic 2023 was held on Feb 10-11, 2023 at Dream Square Resort, Gazipur where all BdREN officials with their family members were invited. Also invited were the Honourable Chairman and all Members of University Grants Commission, along with their family members who gleefully participated in the event. All participants had one night stay in the beautiful greenery of the Gazipur Resort. The wonderful rendition of music by vocalists of 'Bandish' Music Band and Sharmina Tina, the respected wife of Prof. Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, made the participants fascinated, relished and rivetted.





# Our Members

# Full Members

Name of University	Public/Private	Name of University	Public/Private
1 University Of Dhaka	Public	44 Bangladesh University of Business and Technology	Private
2 Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	Public	45 Daffodil University	Private
3 Islamic University	Public	46 East West University	Private
4 University of Chittagong	Public	47 Eastern University	Private
5 Bangladesh Agricultural University	Public	48 Independent University, Bangladesh	Private
6 Shahjalal University of Science & Technology	Public	49 Islamic University of Technology	Private
7 National University	Public	50 International University of Business Agriculture and Technology	Private
8 Patuakhali Science and Technology University	Public	51 Manarat International University	Private
9 The Bangladesh University of Professionals	Public	52 Varendra University	Private
10 Jashore University of Science and Technology	Public	53 North South University	Private
11 Khulna University of Engineering & Technology	Public	54 Green University of Bangladesh	Private
12 University of Barisal	Public	55 Port City International University	Private
13 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University	Public	56 Stamford University Bangladesh	Private
14 Jahangirnagar University	Public	57 United International University	Private
15 Jagannath University	Public	58 Notre Dame University Bangladesh	Private
16 Khulna University	Public	59 CCN University of Science and Technology	Private
17 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University	Public	60 International Islamic University Chittagong	Private
18 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology	Public	61 Asian University of Bangladesh	Private
19 The Bangladesh Open University	Public	62 Primeasia University	Private
20 Bangladesh University of Textiles, BUTex	Public	63 BGC Trust University Bangladesh	Private
21 Begum Rokeya University of Rangpur	Public	64 ASA University Bangladesh	Private
22 Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology	Public	65 Ranada Prashad Saha University	Private
23 Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	Public	66 Feni University	Private
24 The Comilla University	Public	67 Dhaka International University	Private
25 Dhaka University of Engineering & Technology	Public	68 Premier University	Private
26 Hajeer Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University	Public	69 Gono Bishwabidyalay	Private
27 Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University	Public	70 Bangladesh Islamic University	Private
28 Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University	Public	71 University of Science and Technology Chittagong	Private
29 Noakhali Science and Technology University	Public	72 Bangladesh Army University of Science & Technology	Private
30 Pabna University of Science and Technology	Public	73 Southeast University	Private
31 Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology	Public	74 Bangladesh University of Health Sciences	Private
32 Rashahi University	Public	75 State University of Bangladesh	Private
33 Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University	Public	76 Bangladesh Army International University of Science and Technology	Private
34 Rangamati Science and Technology University	Public	77 Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology	Private
35 Sylhet Agricultural University	Public	78 Bangladesh Army University of Engineering and Technology	Private
36 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Digital University	Public	79 City University	Private
37 Khulna Agricultural University	Public	80 Presidency University	Private
38 Habiganj Agricultural University	Public	81 Prime University	Private
39 Chandpur Science and Technology University	Public	82 University of South Asia	Private
40 Rabindra University	Public	83 East Delta University	Private
41 Kurigram Agricultural University	Public	84 Leading University, Sylhet	Private
42 Sunamganj Science & Technology University	Public	85 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University	Public
43 BRAC University	Private		

Name of University	Public/Private	Name of University	Public/Private
86 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University	Public	98 Rabindra Maitree University	Private
87 Islamic Arabic University	Private	99 ZNRF University of Management Science	Private
88 University of Liberal Arts	Private	100 North Western University	Private
89 University of Asia Pacific	Private	101 University of Scholars	Private
90 International Standard University	Private	102 Fareast International University	Private
91 University of Information Technology and Sciences	Private	103 Sheikh Hasina University	Public
92 Ahsanullah University of Science and Technilogy	Private	104 Chittagong Independent University	Private
93 Asian University for Women	Private	105 Canadian University of Bangladesh	Private
94 Rajshahi Medical University	Private	106 Sonargaon University	Private
95 Atish Dipankar University of Sciece and Technology	Private	107 RTM Al Kabir Technical University	Private
96 Northern University Khulna	Private	108 Exim Bank Agricultural University	Private
97 European University Bangladesh	Private	109 North Bengal University	Private

## Associate Members

Name of Instititute	Public/Private	Name of Instititute	Public/Private
1 International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh	Public	21 National Institute of Textile Engineering and Research	Public
2 Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute	Public	22 Local government Engineering Department	Public
3 The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies	Public	23 Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College	Public
4 Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute	Public	24 Lalmatia Mohila College	Public
5 The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh	Public	25 Notre Dame College	Private
6 National Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Science	Public	26 TMSS Medical College	Private
7 Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute	Public	27 Cumilla Shikkha Board Govt. Model College	Public
8 Bangladesh Rice Research Institute	Public	28 Cumilla Victoria Government College	Public
9 Bangladesh Meteorological Department	Public	29 Faridpur Engineering College	Public
10 Bangladesh Institute of Management	Public	30 Adamjee Cantonment College	Public
11 Military Institute of Science and Technology	Public	31 Mymensingh Engineering College	Public
12 Bangladesh Institute of Capital Market	Public	32 Mohammadpur Government College	Public
13 Shaheed Shurawardi Medical College	Public	33 Chandpur Government College	Public
14 Dhaka Dental College	Public	34 Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission	Public
15 Chittagong Medical College	Public	35 Eden Mohilla College	Public
16 Bangladesh Institute Governance & Management	Public	36 Ibrahim Medical College	Private
17 Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh	Public	37 Dhaka Medical College	Public
18 Faridpur Medical College	Public	38 North East Medical College	Private
19 Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College	Private	39 Kumudini Women's Medical College	Private
20 Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	Public	40 International VAT Training Institute	Private
		41 iBAS++, Finance Division	Public

Name of Institute	Public/Private	Name of Institute	Public/Private
42 Bangladesh Association of Women Scientist	Public	71 Dr. MA Wazed TEC	Public
43 Faith Bangladesh	Private	72 Barishal Cadet College	Public
44 Customs Intelligence & Investigation Directorate	Public	73 Jhenaidah Cadet College	Public
45 National Institute of Occupational Health	Public	74 Noakhali Textile Engineering College	Public
46 Ginnidebi Agarwal Women's College	Public	75 East West Medical College	Private
47 Sheikh Borhanuddin Post Grad College	Public	76 MH Samorita Medical College	Private
48 Dhamrai Govt College	Public	77 Bangabandhu Textile Engineering College	Public
49 Bangladesh International School & College	Public	78 BPC Training Center	Public
50 Savar Cantonment Public School & College	Public	79 Bangladesh Computer Council	Public
51 Uttara Adhunik Medical College Hospital	Private	80 National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine	Public
52 Rajshahi Cantonment Public School and College	Public	81 National Agricultural Training Academy	Public
53 Sylhet Cadet College	Public	82 Rangpur Community Medical College	Private
54 Bangladesh Academy for Securities Markets	Public	83 Rangpur Community Dental College	Private
55 National Institute of Population Research and Training	Public	84 Cumilla Cadet College	Public
56 Sher e Bangla Medical College	Public	85 Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization	Public
57 Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture	Public	86 Department of Technical Education Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation	Public
58 Shyamoly Textile Engineering College	Private	87 Transformation	Public
59 Technical Teachers' Training College	Public	88 Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council	Public
60 Rajshahi Cadet College	Public	89 Directorate of Inspection and Audit, MoE	Public
61 Mymensing Girls' Cadet College	Public	90 Mymensing Medical College	Public
62 Joypurhat Girls' Cadet College	Public	91 Central for Medical Education	Public
63 Sylhet Engineering College	Public	92 School of Infantry & Tactics	Public
64 Pabna Textile Engineering College	Public	93 National Institute of Bio-Technology	Public
65 Sheikh Sayera Khatun Medical College	Public	94 Associates for Innovative Research and Development Ltd	Public
66 Shahid Abdur Rab Serniabat Textile Engineering College	Public	95 Secondary Education Sector Investment Program	Public
67 Sheikh Kamal Textile Engineering College, Jhenaidah	Public	96 NBR-National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh	Public
68 Textile Engineering College, Chattogram	Public	97 Darul Irfan Research Institute	Private
69 Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation	Public	98 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University	Private
70 Rangpur Medical College	Public		

## Industry Members

Name of Organization	Public/Private
Kazla Technologies Ltd	Private
Spectrum Engineering Consortium (Pvt.) Ltd.	Private
Data Edge Limited	Private
Express Systems Limited	Private

# Our Finance



# Financial Highlights 2022-2023

Amount in BDT

CONTRIBUTION  
TO NATIONAL  
EXCHEQUER

**9.775 m**

PROUDLY  
SUPPORTING  
SDG-4, SDG-5,  
SDG-8, SDG-9,  
SDG-10, SDG17

Total Assets  
**2351.16 m**

Trust Fund  
**2271.23 m**

Accumulated Surplus  
**316.36 m**

Total Revenue  
**265.99 m**

Total Expense  
**185.28 m**  
(excl. depreciation)

Gross Surplus  
**80.71 m**

# Our Finance

BdREN's overall revenue for 2022-2023 amounted to BDT 265.98 million against a total expenditure of BDT 185.27million [sans depreciation] generating a "Gross Surplus" of BDT 80.71 million. To nullify the "Cost of Depreciation" BdREN is investing healthy amount for replacement of "Capital Machinaries and Equipment". Moreover, BdREN is also making enough investment to procure new Equipment and Accessories for its horizontal and vertical expansion. Here goes a brief about BdREN's present financial status as at 30 June 2023.

- ➔ Total Assets: BDT 2,351.16m
- ➔ Total Trust Fund: BDT 2,271.23m
- ➔ External Liabilities: BDT 79.92m

## Revenue

Our overall revenue for FY 2022-2023 has been recorded as BDT 265.99 million which represents an increase of 47.63 million (22%) compared with FY 2021-2022. The major heads of revenue are:

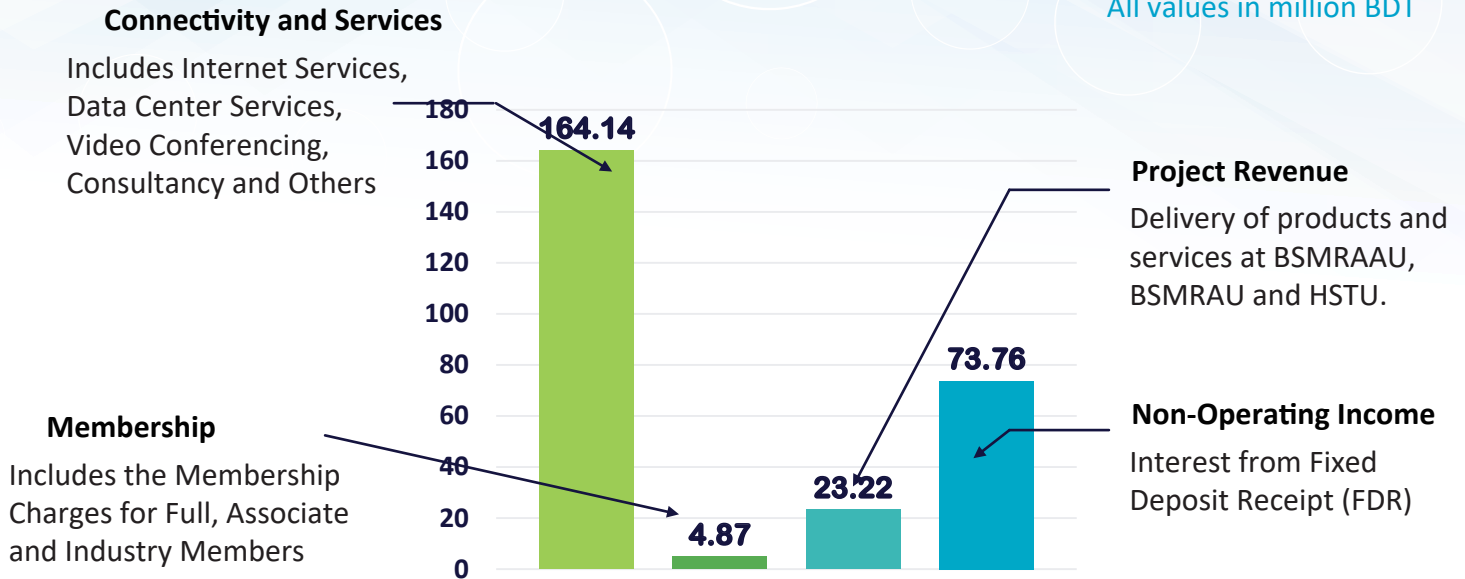
- ➔ Connectivity and Services Revenue (BDT 164.14 million)
- ➔ Annual Membership Fee (BDT 4.87 million) and
- ➔ non-Operating Income (BDT 73.36 million)

# Distribution of BdREN Revenues

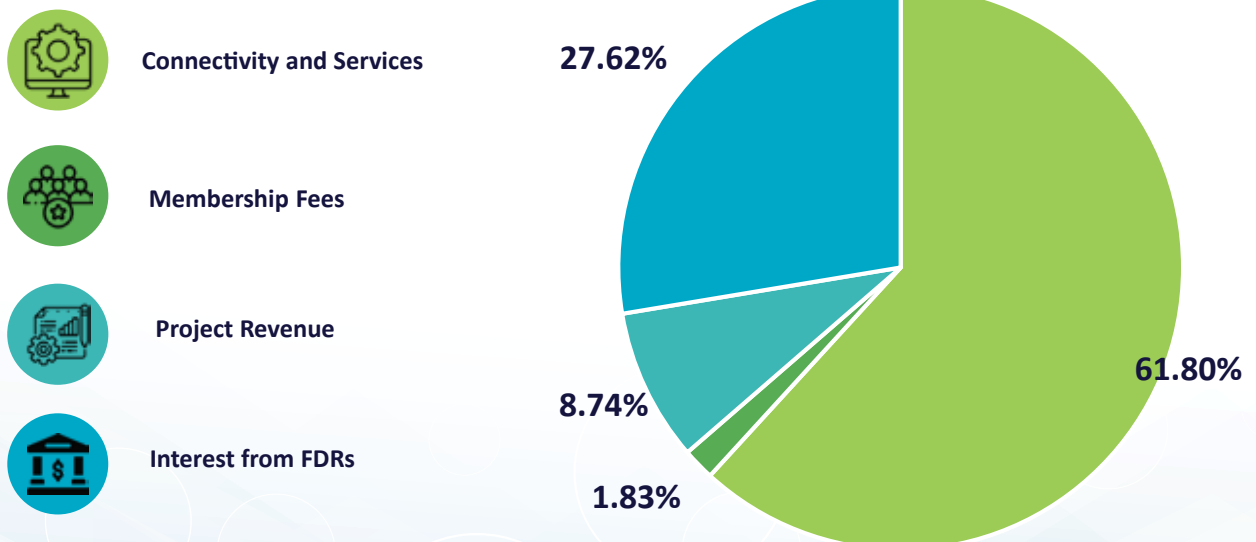
FY 2022-23

## Absolute Distribution of Revenues

All values in million BDT



## Percentage Distribution of Revenues



# BdREN Expenses

The total expenditure of BdREN for FY 2022-2023 was BDT 349.27 million (All other expenses 185.28 + Depreciation 163.99), an increase of BDT 8.16 million (2%) compared to FY 2021-2022. The major cost heads are:

- Network Operational Expense (BDT 64.56 million)
- Network Maintenance Expense (BDT 42.36 million)
- General & Administrative Expense (BDT 55.68 million)
- Depreciation and Amortization Expense (BDT 163.99 million) and
- non-Operating expenditure (BDT 0.86 million)
- Project Expnses (BDT 22.0 million)

## Distribution of Expenses in FY 2022-23



**Non-Operating**  
Cost related to Excise duty and others



**Network Operations**  
Bandwidth Charge, VPN Charge, Electricity Cost and others



**General and Administrative**  
Cost of Human Resources in the form of Salary and Tour Allowances and other Administrative Costs



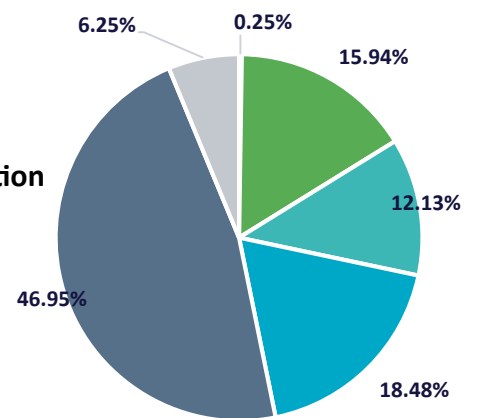
**Depreciation and Amortization**  
Overall Depreciation of Equipment and Amortization of Intangible Assets



**General and Administrative**  
Active Equipment and Passive Infrastructure Maintenance, Power Equipment Maintenance, Optical Fiber Network Maintenance, Transport Maintenance and others

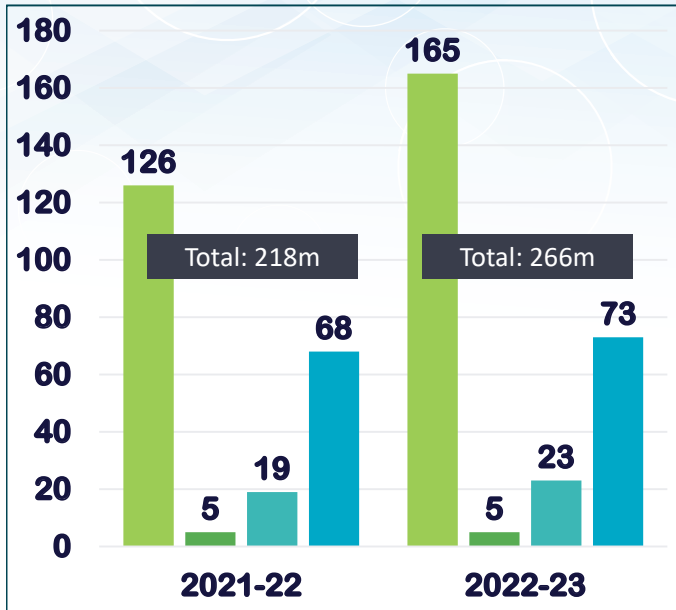


**Project Expense**  
Expenses for running Development Projects mainly for the Member Institutions



# Comparison of Account-wise Revenues

FY 2021-22 vs FY 2022-23

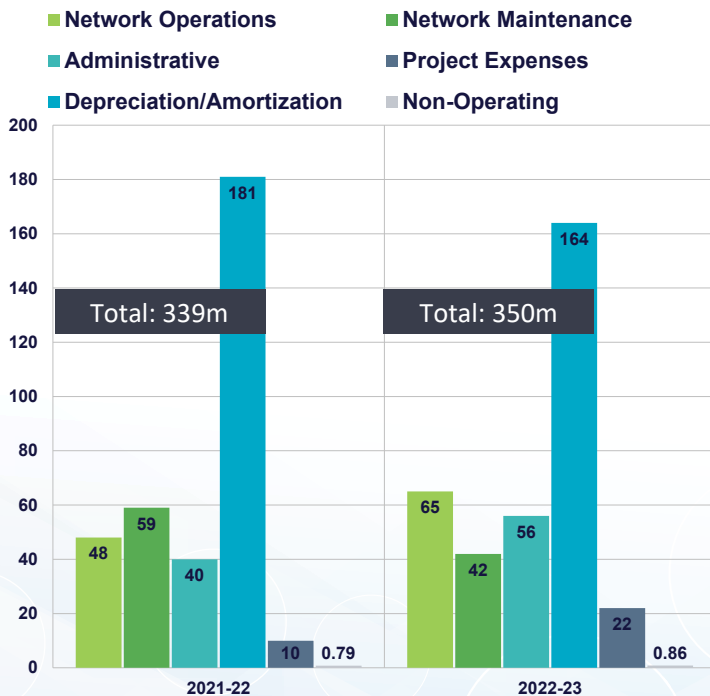


-  **Connectivity and Services**  
GROWTH = 31%
-  **Membership Fees**  
GROWTH = 0%
-  **Project Revenue**  
GROWTH = 11.5 TIMES
-  **Non-Operating Revenue**  
GROWTH = 7%

# Comparison of Account-wise Expenses

FY 2021-22 vs FY 2022-23

Year-on-Year Increment of Total Expenses: 3.26%

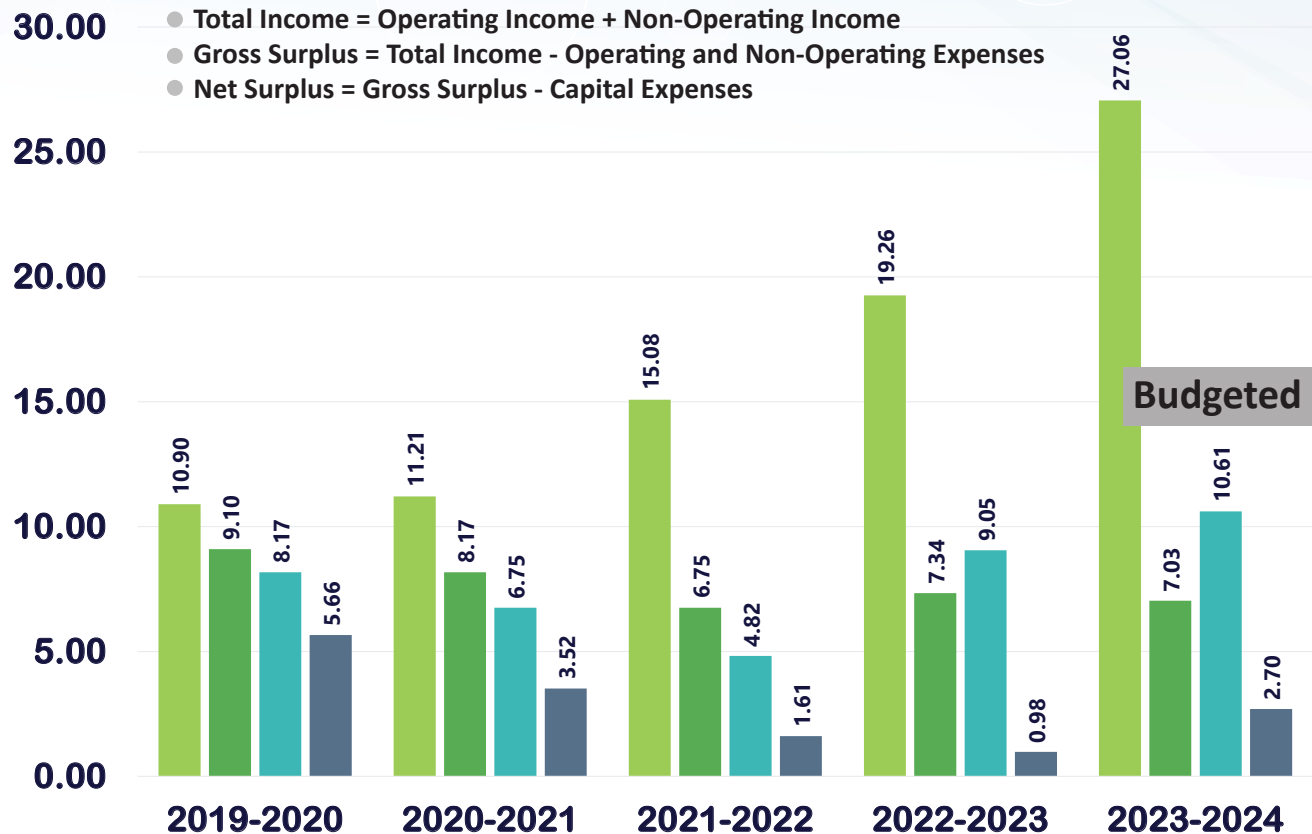


- 01** Increases by **35%**
- 02** Decreases by **29%**
- 03** Increases by **40%**
- 04** Decreases by **9%**
- 05** Increases by **2.2 Times**
- 06** Almost same

# BdREN's Financial Growth

From FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24

Amount In Crore BDT



## Operating Income

Grows steadily over the years from FY 2019-20 to 2023-24

## Non-Operating Income

- Reduces in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 due to
- Further reduces in FY 2023-24 due to alternate investment

## Gross Surplus

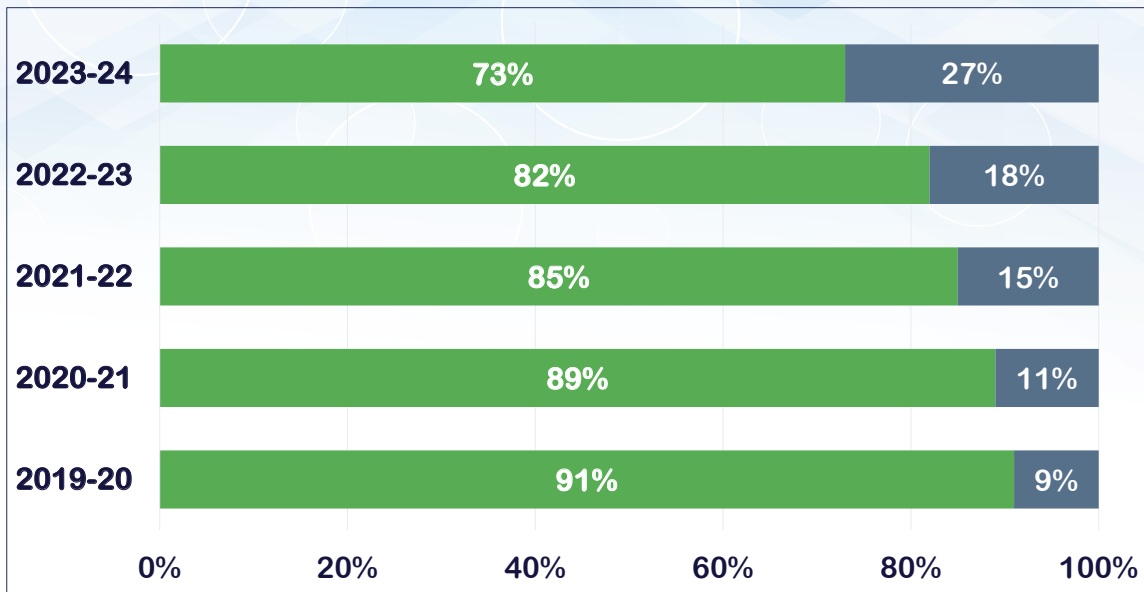
Growth in Operating income overshoots the reduction in non-Operating Income in FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 due to both horizontal and vertical expansion

## Net Surplus

Depends on Gross Surplus and Capital Expenditure. Increased Capital Expenditure in FY 2022-23.

# Distribution of Revenue earning from Public Universities and other Institutes

## Percentage of Revenue shares [Public Universities vs Other Institutes]



**\*\*Notes: 2023-24 data is the Budgeted one**



### Revenue from Public University

This Revenue includes the income generated from all the public universities in Bangladesh



### Revenue from other Institutes

This Revenue includes income generated from any institutes other than the public universities

Presented figures vindicates diversification of Revenue Earning through Horizontal Expansion of BdREN over the years as percentage share of Revenue Earning from other Institutes are increasing year by year.

## Distribution of Operating and non-Operating Income

### Over the years from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24



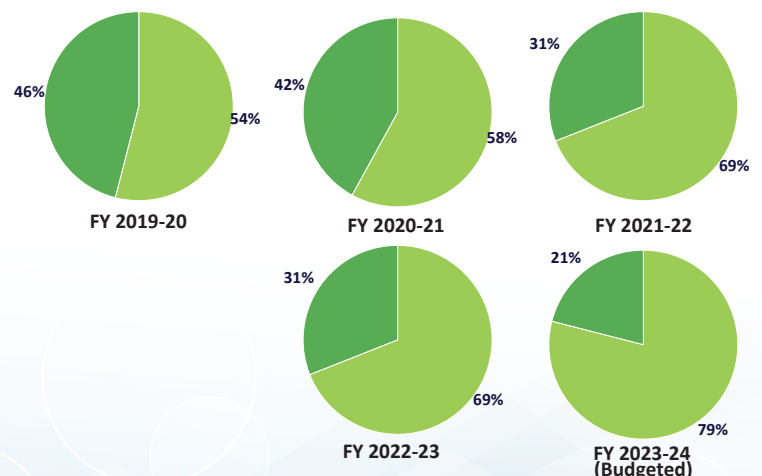
#### Operating

Self-generated Revenue from providing services to BdREN Members



#### Non-Operating

Generated Revenue from interests received from onetime Endowment fund donated by GoB



**\*\*Notes: 2023-24 data is the Budgeted one**

Higher Operating Income indicates proliferation of both Horizontal and Vertical expansion of BdREN which is a move towards long-term sustainability.



# AUDIT REPORT

FY 2022-2023

# Khan Wahab Shafique Rahman & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

SINCE 1968



A member of  
**mgeworldwide**

A Top 20 ranked international network and association  
of independent audit, tax, accounting and consulting firms

**Independent Auditor's Report  
To the Board of Trustees  
of  
Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) Trust  
Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) Trust ("The Trust") which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2023, and the statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income, statement of changes in trust fund and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view, in all material respects of the financial position of the Trust as at June 30, 2023, and of its financial performance its cash flows for the year then ended and comply with the requirement of Trust Act 1882, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS's), and other applicable laws and regulations.

## Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the International Ethical Standards Board for Accountant's code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Jurisdictions, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Emphases of Matter

The company has recorded expenses related to in-house software development as revenue expenditures rather than capitalizing them as intangible assets. The company now plans to capitalize these costs and recognize them as an intangible asset upon project completion, aligning with appropriate accounting principles. Our opinion is not modified in respect of the matter.



## **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with (IFRSS) and comply with the Trust Act, 1882 and other applicable laws and regulations for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process. Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management but not for the purpose expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the trust's financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

#### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the Trust Act 1882, we also report the following:

- a) we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit and made due verification thereof
- b) in our opinion, proper books of account as required by the law have been kept by the Trust so far as it appeared from our examination of those books; and
- c) the statement of financial position and statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of accounts;

Date; Dhaka 11 OCT 2023

  
Khan Wahab Shafique Rahman & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
Signed by: Md. Tanjilur Rahman FCA  
Partner  
Enrolment No: 1885  
Firm Registration No.: 11970 E.P.  
DVC: 231 01 11885AS11364 6



**BdREN Trust**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at June 30, 2023**

Particulars	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		30.06.2023	30.06.2022
<b>ASSETS:</b>			
Non-Current Assets	3.00	1,488,926,581	1,234,888,045
Property, Plant & Equipment (Tangible)	3.01	1,042,380,181	1,079,507,339
Capital work in progress	3.02	312,571,312	
Furniture & Fixtures	3.03	22,700,802	25,103,133
Intangible Assets	3.04	24,874,286	34,277,573
Long-Term-Advance	3.05	86,400,000	96,000,000
Current Assets	4.00	862,230,955	1,185,673,842
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4.01	21,241,209	4,766,355
Investment in FDR	4.02	660,000,000	1,090,000,000
Stationary	4.03	14,651	27,295
Advance, Deposite & Pre-payments	4.04	25,967,322	22,447,499
Accounts Receivables	4.05	98,442,913	33,575,910
Advance Income Tax (AIT)	4.06	49,282,221	34,856,783
Interest Receivable	4.07	7,282,639	-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>2,351,157,536</b>	<b>2,420,561,887</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; TRUST FUND:</b>			
Current Liabilities	5.00	79,924,708	40,706,052
Accounts Payable	5.01	38,886,724	21,870,484
Expenses Payable	5.02	1,848,317	2,110,704
Audit Fee Payable	5.03	75,000	83,056
VAT Payable	5.04	2,680,408	194,040
Withholding Tax Payable	5.05	191,853	-
Provision for Income Tax	5.06	34,570,955	14,484,426
Asi@Connect Project Fund	5.07	-	941,831
fDLuDCf Project Fund	5.08	565,209	54,269
Unearned Revenue	5.09	4,227	4,227
Suspense Account	5.10	18,914	28,527
Advance Membership Fee	5.11	25,000	27,000
Fund for DWDM Training	5.12	34,037	-
Other Funds	6.00	1,024,064	907,488
Non-Current Liabilities		-	9,337,188
Accounts Payable -dataedge Ltd.	7.00	-	9,337,188
Trust Fund	8.00	2,271,232,828	2,370,518,646
Capital Fund	8.01	896,700,000	896,700,000
Operational Fund	8.02	65,746,173	62,206,076
Donation and Grants	8.03	992,422,935	1,156,410,716
Accumulated Surplus	8.04	316,363,720	255,201,854
<b>Total Fund &amp; Liabilities</b>		<b>2,351,157,536</b>	<b>2,420,561,887</b>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements

  
CAFO

  
Chief Executive Officer

  
Vice-Chairperson

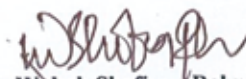
  
Chairperson  
(Ad-hoc Charge)

Signed in terms of our annexed report of even date.

Place: Dhaka

Dated: 11 OCT 2023



  
Khan Wahab Shafique Rahman & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
Signed By: Md. Tanjilur Rahman FCA  
Partner  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm's Reg. No.: 11970 E.P.  
DVC: 2310111885AS113646

**BdREN Trust**  
**Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income**  
**For the year ended June 30, 2023**

Particulars	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		2022-2023	2021-2022
<b>Operating Income</b>	10.00	<b>192,630,329</b>	<b>150,848,232</b>
Annual Membership fee	10.01	4,870,000	5,020,000
Service Revenue	10.02	164,530,435	126,898,232
Other	10.03	23,229,894	18,930,000
<b>Less: Operating Expenses</b>	11.00	<b>348,410,660</b>	<b>340,312,086</b>
Network Operational Expense	11.01	64,560,527	48,370,663
Network Maintenance Expense	11.02	42,360,107	59,142,152
General & Administrative Expense	11.03	55,681,476	40,868,180
Depreciation and Amortization Expense	11.04	163,987,781	181,003,614
Project Expense	11.05	21,820,769	10,927,477
<b>Profit/(Loss) from Operations</b>		<b>(155,780,331)</b>	<b>(189,463,854)</b>
<b>Add: Non-Operating Income</b>	12.00	<b>73,355,425</b>	<b>67,503,315</b>
Income from Bank Interest	12.01	73,135,853	67,306,865
Discount receipts on payment	12.02	-	5,200
Others receipts	12.03	219,572	191,250
<b>Less: Non-Operating Expense</b>	13.00	<b>856,366</b>	<b>793,102</b>
Financial Expense	13.01	824,500	773,802
Bank Charges	13.02	31,866	19,300
<b>Profit/(Loss) before Tax</b>		<b>(83,281,272)</b>	<b>(122,753,641)</b>
Less: Income Tax Expense		9,775,863	10,006,532
<b>Profit/(Loss) after Tax</b>		<b>(93,057,135)</b>	<b>(132,760,173)</b>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements

  
CAFO

  
Chief Executive Officer

  
Vice-Chairperson


  
Chairperson  
(Addl. Charge)

Signed in terms of our annexed report of even date.

Place: Dhaka

Dated: 11 OCT 2023



  
Khan Wahab Shafique Rahman & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

Signed By: Md. Tanjilur Rahman FCA  
Partner

Chartered Accountants

Firm's Reg. No.: 11970 E.P.

DVC: 2310111885AS113646

**BdREN Trust**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the year ended June 30, 2023**

Particulars	Amount in Taka	
	2022-2023	2021-2022
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net Income	(93,057,135)	(132,760,173)
Depreciation & Amortization	154,387,781	171,403,614
Decreased Inventories	12,644	26,750
Decreased Long-term Advance	9,600,000	9,600,000
Increased Advance, Deposit & Pre-payments	(3,519,823)	(21,715,851)
Increased Accounts Receivables	(64,867,003)	(970,598)
Decreased FDR	430,000,000	(10,000,000)
Advance Income Tax Paid	(14,425,438)	(9,776,679)
Increase in Interest Receivable	(7,282,639)	-
Loss on sale of Fixed Asset-Vehicle	-	79,302
Increase Accounts Payable	17,016,240	3,184,723
Decrease Audit Fee Payable	(8,056)	25,556
Decrease Expense Payable	(262,387)	502,746
Increase Suspense Account	(9,613)	28,527
Increase VAT Payable	2,486,368	(280,591)
Increased other Funds	116,576	863,710
Decrease Asi@Connect Project Fund	(941,831)	(231,879)
Increased fDLuDCf Project Fund	510,940	(1,118,636)
Increase Provision for Income Tax	20,086,529	10,006,532
Decrease in Advance Membership fee	(2,000)	2,000
Increase Withholding Tax Payable	191,853	(21,478)
Increase Fund for DWDM Training	34,037	-
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities (A)</b>	<b>450,067,044</b>	<b>18,847,575</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Sale of Fixed Asset	-	505,250
Purchase of Non-Current Assets	(105,455,006)	(32,178,511)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities (B)</b>	<b>(105,455,006)</b>	<b>(31,673,261)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Changes in Operational Fund	3,540,097	25,501
Accumulated Surplus	(9,768,781)	271,600
Payment of Long Term Debt	(9,337,188)	(7,225,000)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities (C)</b>	<b>(15,565,872)</b>	<b>(6,927,899)</b>
<b>Net Cash flows (Provided/Used) from all activities [A+B+C]</b>	<b>329,046,166</b>	<b>(19,753,585)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	4,766,356	24,519,941
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the ending of the year</b>	<b>333,812,522</b>	<b>4,766,356</b>

  
CAFO

  
Chief Executive Officer

  
Vice-Chairperson

  
Chairperson  
(Addl. Charge)

**BdREN Trust**  
**Statement of Changes in Trust Fund**  
**For the year ended June 30, 2023**

Amount in Taka

Particulars	Capital Fund	Operational Fund	Donation & Grants	Accumulated Surplus	Total
Balance as at 01 July 2022	896,700,000	62,206,076	1,156,410,716	255,201,854	2,370,518,646
Add: Adjustment	-	3,540,098	-	(9,768,781)	(6,228,683)
Add: Net profit for the year	-	-	-	(93,057,135)	(93,057,135)
Add/(Less): Depreciation & Amortization	-	-	(163,987,781)	163,987,781	-
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>896,700,000</b>	<b>65,746,174</b>	<b>992,422,935</b>	<b>316,363,719</b>	<b>2,271,232,828</b>

Balance as at 30 June 2022	896,700,000	62,206,076	1,156,410,716	255,201,854	2,370,518,646
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CAFO

  
Chief Executive Officer

  
Vice-Chairperson

  
Chairperson  
(Addl. Charge)



# Solemnly Acknowledging Contributions of BdREN's Current and Past Board Members

## BdREN First Trustees



**Professor Dr. A.K. Azad Chowdhury**  
Former Chairman (State Minister),  
UGC and Former Chairperson, BdREN Trust



**Professor Dr. M. Muhibur Rahman**  
Former Member, UGC and Former  
Vice-Chairperson, BdREN Trust



**Professor Dr. A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique**  
Former Vice-Chancellor, DU



**Professor Dr. Muhammad Mizanuddin**  
Former Vice-Chancellor, RU



**Professor Dr. Md. Rafiqul Hoque**  
Former Vice-Chancellor,  
BAU



**Professor Dr. Pran Gopal Datta**  
Former Vice-Chancellor,  
BSMMU



**Professor Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb**  
Former Vice-Chancellor,  
BRAC University



**Professor Dr. Ahmed Shafee**  
Former Vice-Chancellor,  
East West University



**Mr. Kazi Salahuddin Akbar**  
Ex-Additional Secretary, University Wing,  
Ministry of Education

## Current BoT Members



**Prof. Dr. Kazi Shahidullah**  
Chairman, University Grants Commission of  
Bangladesh and Chairperson, BdREN Trust



**Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alamgir**  
Member, University Grants Commission of  
Bangladesh and Vice-Chairperson, BdREN Trust



**Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain**  
Member,  
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh



**Prof. Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Alam**  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology



**Prof. Dr. Md. Jahangir Alam**  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology



**Prof. Dr. Md. Didar-ul-Alam**  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Najahat Science and Technology University



**Prof. Dr. A.Z.M. Mostaque Hossain**  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Najahat Medical University



**Prof. Imran Rahman**  
Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh



**Md. Anwar Hossain**  
Managing Director (Additional Charge),  
Bangladesh Information Services Company Limited



**Mr. Numeri Zaman**  
Joint Secretary (University Wing I),  
DHED, Ministry of Education



**Vice-Chancellor**  
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