



# NEWSLETTER

October 2011

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## GP LAUNCHES 'ONLINE SCHOOL' PROJECT WITH JAAGO

JAAGO Foundation, in partnership with Grameenphone Limited, is launching the first 'Online Classroom' in Bangladesh. A deal was signed between Korvi Rakshand, Founder of JAAGO Foundation and Tore Johnson, CEO of Grameenphone on the 4th of October, 2011, at Dhaka's GP House.

On behalf of GP, Debashish Roy, Head of Corporate Responsibility for GP, was present. On behalf of JAAGO Founder, witnesses were Aumee Ahmed, Communications Officer; and Zihad Zaman, Project Manager of Volunteer for Bangladesh, the volunteer wing of the Foundation, were witnesses of JAAGO.

The 'online Classroom' project is a method of disseminating modern technology to remote areas of the country and creating a virtual classroom for the children who are deprived of a good education. With simple video conferencing method using the internet, a teacher taking classes in the Dhaka district will be accessible to the most remote rural school of the country. Necessary books and other equipments will be provided to all the branches. However, the deal signed between JAAGO Foundation and GP is for a pilot project which will be initially launched between the Foundation's Rayer Bazar and Tongi Branch.

Grameenphone will also utilize its 'Alokdeep' (Cyclone Center and School) Project, situated in the southern part of the country, to facilitate JAAGO Foundation's effort in this venture.



# HALLOWEEN PARTY FOR THE KIDS

Students from JAAGO's Karail and Rayer Bazaar campus were invited to a Halloween party organized by the U.S. Embassy on the 31st of October, 2011.

Garrett Wilkerson, Cultural Affairs Officer of US Embassy Dhaka, welcomed all the guests warmly, including the education coordinators of both the JAAGO branches. The kids were briefed on the history of Halloween and its' traditions all over the world. In honor of the occasion, many of our students had their faces painted by professional artists and made masks to keep as souvenirs. A presentation on Halloween celebrations in the United States shown to the students was enjoyed by the kids.

The party concluded with traditional Halloween 'treats' - juice and chocolates.



# RESULTS DAY AT JAAGO SCHOOL



An anxious line of parents made a queue outside the classrooms to collect their kids' first quarter report cards on the 20th of October, 2011. Traditionally, JAAGO gives out the report cards four times in every school year, almost every three months so that our kids' progress can be regularly evaluated. Junior classes are assessed on their class tests, class performance, class behavior, homework etc whereas the older classes, class 1 and 2, have formal exams in the 2nd and 4th quarter.

Attendance of the parents was very impressive; almost 90% of all kids' parents came to consult the faculty about their children's academic performance and discuss individual problems with the teachers. The guardians were led by the prefects of class 2 around the campus and to the different subject teachers of JAAGO.

JAAGO Foundation commends the students, prefects and of course the guardians for their excellent effort and expects the same level of achievement in the coming school semesters.



# CELEBRATING SCB CONTRIBUTIONS AT KARAIL

On the second of this month, JAAGO Foundation was joined by important personnel and employees of Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) at our Karail School to celebrate the contributions made by SCB to JAAGO. This year, through an employee driven initiative, SCB has donated a number of fully functioning desktop computers, and a library that houses more than 2,300 books.

Distinguished guests Jim McCabe, CEO of SCB; Arshadul Hassan, CIO of SCB; Matthew Norris, CIO of South Asia and Jan Verplancke, CIO of Group Technology and Operations, were welcomed by Korvi Rakshand, Founder of JAAGO and the students of the Karail School and other members of the JAAGO Team.

Students of the Karail branch warmly received the guests by singing the National Anthem and 'We shall overcome'. The kids enjoyed participating in an art competition, where the best artist was honored with a prize.

At the end of the event Korvi gave a speech on JAAGO's humble beginnings and thanked everyone for their support in the journey so far. JAAGO Foundation is very grateful to Standard Chartered Bank for such an innovative contribution.



In preparation for the biggest congregation of Volunteers in Bangladesh so far, workshops were conducted in all districts to prepare for the the Universal Children's Day campaign of 2011.

For the first time, volunteers from Sylhet to Chittagong and all over Bangladesh received a taste of Universal Children's Day fever, which was limited to youngsters of Dhaka in the last few years.

From the local traffic police to the parents of the volunteers, almost everyone in the capital is familiar with the increasing magnitude of UCD celebrations each year. This year the volunteer count is overflowing our initial estimate by thousands; an issue that has posed to be both an inspiration and a problem for us.

Not to be upstaged by Dhaka, the port city is preparing for an energetic awareness raising event on the 3rd of November, 2011. Initially Chittagong encountered a problem of a different kind, lack of encouragement from the city officials. A volunteer from Chittagong says "The authorities were not so enthusiastic at first but after watching our presentations on JAAGO and UCD and listening to our motives, they offered their full cooperation for the event on the 3rd of November.

UCD'11 will be the first event for volunteers of Khulna, and their enthusiasm is contagious. According to a dedicated Khulna volunteer, who is originally from Dhaka "People will wait for hours just for the T-shirt. I must say that UCD'11 has changed my view of Khulna and the youth."

"The hardest part is saying no to volunteers because they may be too young to participate or they may have been too late to register. But we appreciate their interest and Volunteer for Bangladesh Sylhet will host events in the future that will be open to anyone who wants the opportunity to make a difference" reports a dedicated volunteer from Sylhet. For the people of Sylhet, the stress has been nothing. "We are working hard for kids,

who will be spending their lives in misery so really distributing T-shirts in the heat is worth it and fun as well". says the volunteer.

According to the volunteers in Rangpur, the UCD preparation has united the volunteers with members of the community. Despite the hartals, this unity has kept them going and striving for a successful fund raising event.

Feni initially had trouble introducing Volunteer for Bangladesh and JAAGO to the general population. "People here have a basic idea about JAAGO and what JAAGO did but they are not familiar with VBD's work. After showing the presentations and conducting the workshops, the youngsters began to show interest." Volunteers in Feni are now sure of something, no matter how UCD 2011 turns out, they will be raising awareness about primary education for all children in Bangladesh.

Excitement levels are high in Gazipur since this kind of event is the first for this district. The volunteers believe that the end result is worth all the hard work they are doing for UCD. "At first, things weren't going so smooth because we have never had experience with this kind of event before. Now, we know that despite all the stress, our hard work is going to be worth it, if we can put a smile on a kids face" says a volunteer from Gazipur.

The preparations in Naraynganj are going strong despite the obstacles caused by the ongoing volunteers. Since, team Naraynganj is the youngest team district in the entire country, the volunteers had a tough time convincing their parents. "After watching the presentations in the workshops, our parents want us to participate and this is great news." reports a volunteer.

Rajshahi and Barisal are also areas to be watched out for. The volunteer count is still within the limit, but with a few more, could be exceeding our estimates.

## UCD WORKSHOPS NATIONWIDE



# LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER



Dear all,

I hope that all of you are as excited about UCD as our dedicated volunteers. This year, UCD celebrations will be extending throughout November, kicking off with the flagship fundraising event on the 3rd. Almost 7000 volunteers will be stepping into the shoes of underprivileged street kids to raise awareness and funds for UCD'11's central theme: Primary Education for All.

This year's theme is United Nation's Millennium Development's second most important goal. By implementing this goal into our UCD campaign, we hope to help Bangladesh step closer to achieving these goals within the next four years. Our trademark fundraising event will be open to youngsters from all corners of the country. Later in the month we will be launching Children's Week Project

Standard Chartered Bank impressed JAAGO with their innovative contributions and we appreciate Grameen Phone's trust in launching the pilot phase of our online school project. If you have been inspired by these companies and think that your cooperation could make a difference in our projects, you are more than welcome to discuss it with our team.

We hope that by 2015 all kids in Bangladesh will be waking up in the morning to go to school. See you on the streets on 11/3/11!

**Korvi Rakshand**

*Founder*

JAAGO Foundation

