

**Asia-Pacific Digital Societies Policy Forum 2016**  
**Session: 2 Advancing Digital Societies in Asia Pacific**  
27-28 April 2016 Centara Grand at Centara World, Bangkok

# Digital Bangladesh

Saida Muna Tasneem

**Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand**

27 April 2016

Bangkok

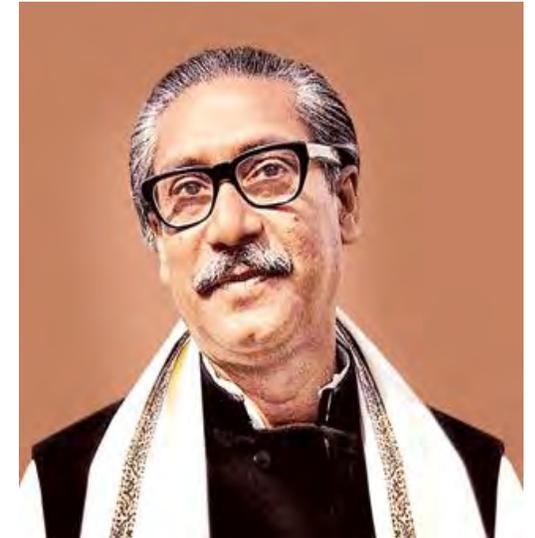


People's Republic of Bangladesh



# Bangladesh overview

Born out of a heroic war under the leadership of the Father of the Nation **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, Bangladesh is a secular and inclusive democracy and a responsible member of the international community.



Geographic area

**147,570 sq. km**



Population

**160.1 Million**



Literacy

**60%**



GDP (2014-15)

**201,813 Million USD**



Per capita income

**1,316 USD**



GDP Growth rate

**6.55%**

(2014-2015)

## Distinct position of Bangladesh in the world



8<sup>th</sup> Largest country in terms of population



43<sup>th</sup> Largest economy in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



35<sup>th</sup> Economy in terms of GDP growth



2<sup>nd</sup> Largest garments industry



Highest Jute producing country



**9<sup>th</sup> Largest Mobile phone market based on current subscription**

# Vision 2021 Digital Bangladesh

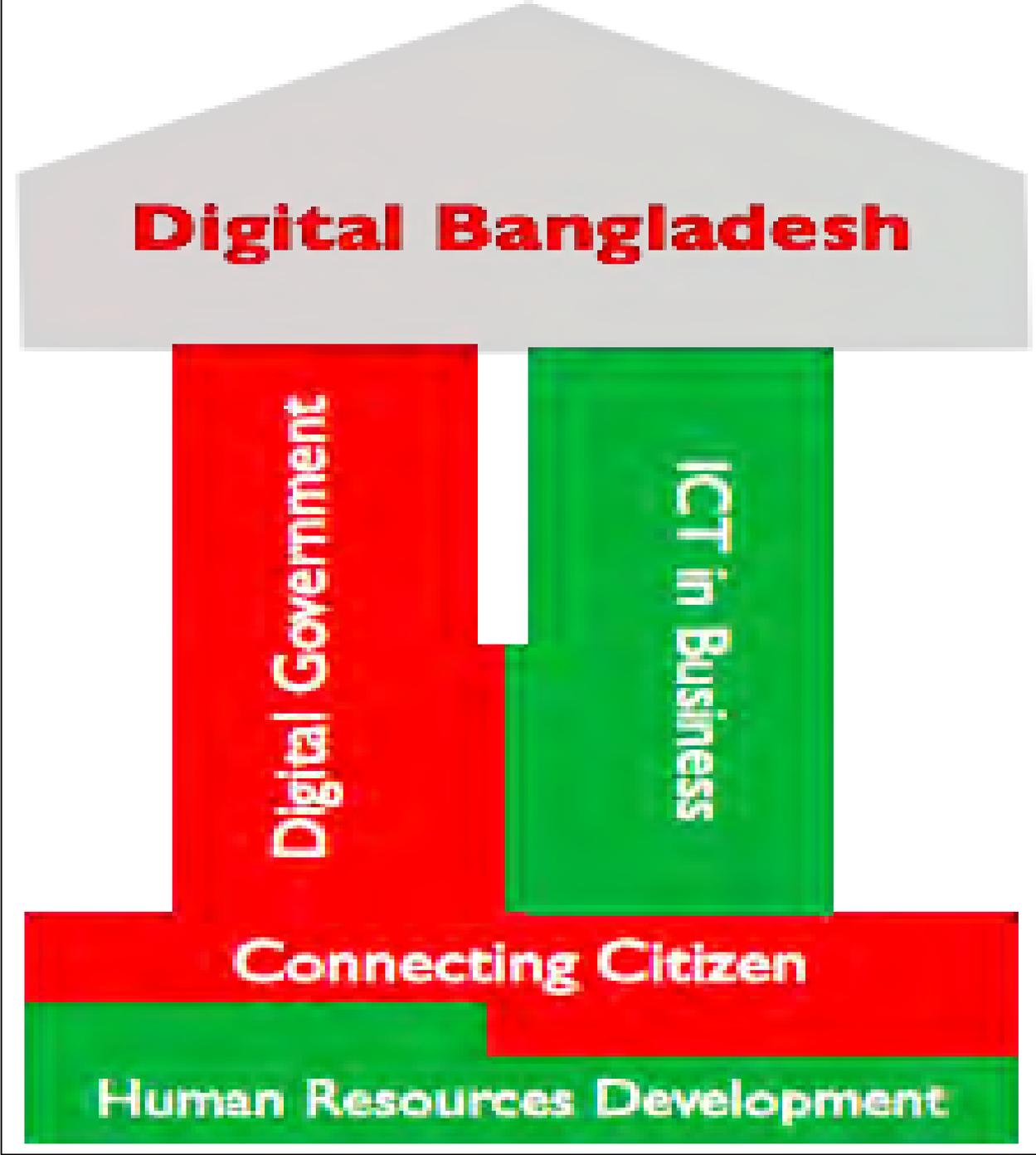
We are  
committed  
to establish  
Digital  
Bangladesh  
by 2021

Sheikh Hasina  
Prime Minister  
of Bangladesh



# 4 Pillars of Governance of Bangladesh

- Good Governance
- Inclusiveness
- Transparency
- Accountability
- **Vision 2021: Electoral Promise of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2008**
- Transform Bangladesh into a digitally driven knowledge based society and a Middle Income Country by 2021, 50<sup>th</sup> year of Independence
- Reincarnation of Bangabndhus ‘ Sonar Bangka’ Golden Bengal



# Vision for a Digital Bangladesh:

- **Digital Government and digitally connected citizens**
- **Empowering people through access to digitalisation**
- Digital Bangladesh : Mainstream ICTs as a pro-poor tool. Indeed, vision of poverty reduction and human development leveraging ICTs
- **Policy and Acts on ICT**
- **National Information and Communication Policy 2009**
- **National Information and Communication Policy 2015 (updated)**
- **6<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2009-2015) was dedicated to enhancing tele-density and internet density**

# Achievements 2009-2015 as a result of the Policy

- **Tele density – 35% upto 84 %**
- **MBP- 35%-84.3%**
- **Internet Penetration- from 5% to 34%**
- **Smart Phone users – 1% to 20%**
- **Mobile subscription - 132 Million**
- **Internet Subscription- 56 Million**
- **Mobile usage – 43.7 m. to 133.7 m**
- **25,000 km optical fibre coverage**
- **99% geographical coverage of voice and data**
- **Reduction of Price of Internet Bandwidth by 90%**

# 7th Five Year Plan Telecom Focus

- 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2015-2020) aims at universal tele and internet density,
- Make internet more accessible and affordable
- Developing telecom and IT infrastructure
- Connecting Citizen's, e-governance, e-commerce, e-finance, e-agriculture

# Future Ambitions

- Equitable access for everyone
- 4G by 2016
- MNP (Mobile Number Portability) by 2016
- Smart City by 2017
- Getting 1300 GBPS from SEA ME WE5
- First Geo-sattelite: Bangabandhu Satellite by 2017

# Digital Government : e-Connectivity and ICT Infrastructure

## Connecting Government :

### **Independent ICT Ministry in 2009**

**Bangla GovNet Project:** 58 Ministry, 227 department, 64 districts, 64 selected sub-district

- **Info Sarkar-2 Project:** 18,500 government offices connection established
- 25,000 tab for the government officers
- **A2 I project:** 5200 Digital Centre at lowest tier of local Government
- **Video Concerning** is the new mode of communication
- **Bangladesh Computer Council-**750 Terabyte webhosting capacity
- **BCC-** Specialized ICT lab for training of all

# National Special Initiatives-2

- **National Enterprise Architecture (NEA)**
- **ICT Division for National Enterprise Architecture (NEA)**
- **Development of National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh Government Phase-3**
- **Judicial System Digitization Project**
- **Paperless Office**
- **Comptroller of certifying Authority for Digital Signature for SMART Card**
- **Digital Forensic Lab**
- **National Cyber Security Agency**
- **IT Park in 12 Districts**
- **Stablishing Digital Connectivity Project**

# National Special Initiatives for Digital Government

- **Establishment of National Call Centre for information disseminations**
- **Establishment of World Fifth Biggest National Data Center**
- **About 5000 Digital Centers at the Union level**
- **2000 Computer and Language Lab across the country**
- **Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Academy and R&D Centre**
- **Software Certification Centre**
- **Training and Incubation Centre**
- **Big data Analytics and Titaniam Lab**
- **Mobile ICT Training Lab for Women Empowerment**

# IT Enabled Skilled Human Resource Development

- Specialized ICT Lab in 20 Universities
- **500,000 IT skilled people in 3 years**
- **BCC-Leveraging ICT for Growth and Employment and Governance (LIST)**
- **4000 Fast Track Future Leader (FTFL)**
- **10,000 top up IT**
- **20,000 Foundation Training**

# **IT Enabled HRD: Digitization of the Information and Service through Innovations**

- **Inspiring innovation in ICT**
- **Idea Generation Workshop**
- **Bangla Optical Character Recognition (OCR)**
- **Interactive Multimedia Digital Textbook in all educational insititues**
- **Programming Contest, ICT debate Completion**

# **ICT Infrastructure and Industry Development**

- **Hi-tech Park at kaliakoir**
- **Software technology Park- Jessore**
- **Electronic City in Sylhet**
- **Barendro Silicon City in Rajshahi**
- **IT Training and Incubation Centre in Natore**
- **IT Business Incubator in Chittagong University of Engineering and technology**

**5 private institute declared as Software Technology Park by BD High-Tech Park Authority**

# Infrastructure

## Connectivity

- 25 km from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport
- 40 km from Dhaka City

## Location

- Latitude: 24°3'58.97
- Longitude: 90°13'12.91



Proposed Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway



Railway line passing through KHTP

## Good Road Network

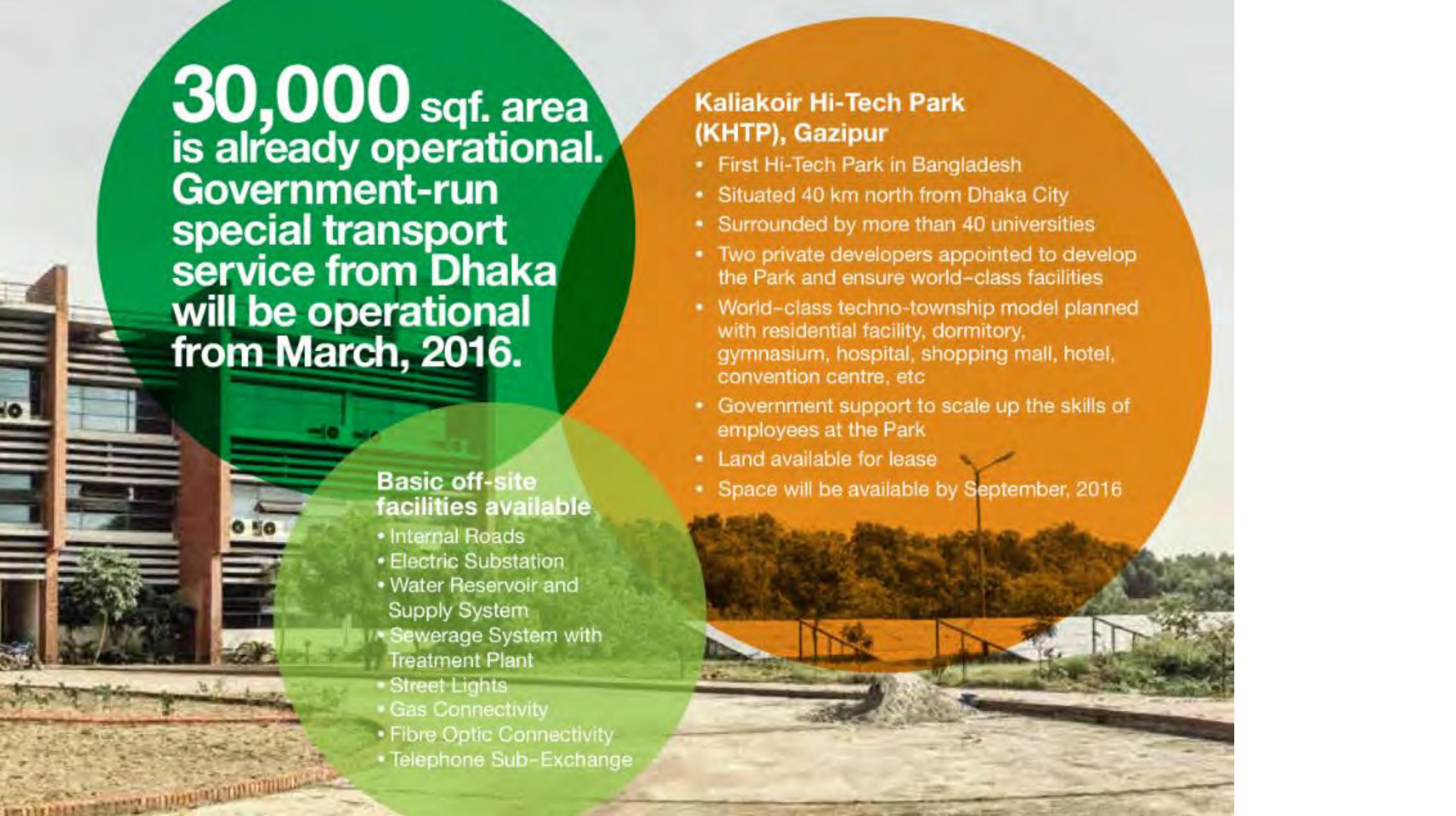
- Dhaka – Savar – Kaliakoir: 4-lane Road
- Dhaka – Airport – Tongi – Bhogra – Kaliakoir Road
- Rapid Bus Transit Facility from Dhaka – Airport – Tongi – Bhogra
- Bhogra to KHTP through Asian Highway Road
- Dhaka – Airport – Ashulia – KHTP Road

## Internal Infrastructure at Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park



# HI-TECH PARKS IN BANGLADESH





**30,000** sqf. area  
is already operational.  
Government-run  
special transport  
service from Dhaka  
will be operational  
from March, 2016.

### **Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park (KHTP), Gazipur**

- First Hi-Tech Park in Bangladesh
- Situated 40 km north from Dhaka City
- Surrounded by more than 40 universities
- Two private developers appointed to develop the Park and ensure world-class facilities
- World-class techno-township model planned with residential facility, dormitory, gymnasium, hospital, shopping mall, hotel, convention centre, etc
- Government support to scale up the skills of employees at the Park
- Land available for lease
- Space will be available by September, 2016

### **Basic off-site facilities available**

- Internal Roads
- Electric Substation
- Water Reservoir and Supply System
- Sewerage System with Treatment Plant
- Street Lights
- Gas Connectivity
- Fibre Optic Connectivity
- Telephone Sub-Exchange

# Janata Tower Software Technology Park, Dhaka

- Twelve-storied multi-tenant building with 72,000 sqf. at the heart of Dhaka City
- Conducive business environment has been created for smooth operations
- IT companies have started operations

**“The Government  
will establish Hi-Tech  
Parks in every district  
followed by every division.”**

Hon'ble Prime Minister  
**Sheikh Hasina**



# Sylhet Electronic City

- Proficient IT-trained manpower is easily available
- Evergreen environment-friendly district
- 163 acres of land allocated for park development
- Additional 500 acres is to be acquired
- Connected to Dhaka and Shillong, India through Asian highway
- Connected through railway network
- Only 15 km from the Osmania International Airport
- Land lease will be available by June, 2016

131.44 Million Mobile •  
Phone Subscribers

51.98 Million Internet Subscribers •

Total Bandwidth: 200 GBPS •  
(SEA-ME-WE-4)

1,300 GBPS more will be •  
added by December, 2016  
(SEA-ME-WE-5)

6 terrestrial connectivity through India •  
More than 20,500 km fibre optic network •



# Barendra Silicon City, Rajshahi

- Centrally located in Rajshahi, the education city
- Surrounded by five universities, engineering and medical colleges, and other educational institutions
- Planned as an integrated township with state-of-the-art infrastructure for the IT/ITES and Telecom industry
- An area covering 34 acres of land has been demarcated
- Proper road and rail connectivity with Dhaka and other cities
- Land available for lease



**Global  
Recognition  
for Bangladesh's  
Contribution  
to ICT &  
other Sectors**



**ICT's Sustainable  
Development  
Award 2015**

Hon'ble PM Sheikh Hasina  
receiving the award from  
International Telecommunication  
Union (ITU) Secretary General on  
September 27, 2015

# Global ICT Excellence Award 2014



Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak,  
Hon'ble State Minister for ICT  
Division, received the award  
from World Information  
Technology and Services  
Alliance (WITSA) on September  
31, 2014 in Mexico for  
effectively using ICT in public  
service delivery

## South-South Cooperation Visionary Award 2014

PM's ICT Affairs Adviser Mr. Sajeeb Wazed receiving the award given by the United Nations on November 21, 2014 for advancing Bangladesh towards a digital system and the expansion of education



Bangladesh was elected as an executive member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for the **2<sup>nd</sup>** time at the election held in South Korea on October 27, 2014

# World Summit on Information Technology 2014

Hon'ble State Minister for ICT  
Division Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak  
received the award from  
International Telecommunication  
Union (ITU) in Geneva on June 10,  
2014 for improving people's lives  
through the use of ICT



Bangladesh has been ranked  
17th for investor protection



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Endorsement by  
**WORLD LEADERS**  
for Investing in Bangladesh



"From Zimbabwe to Bangladesh, citizens work to keep elections safe, using the crowdsourcing platform Ushahidi - and that's a great idea."

**Barack Obama**  
at Global Entrepreneurship  
Summit 2015 in Kenya



"Bangladesh 'wildly adopting' technology and has been a shining example of using ICT."

**Bill Gates**  
The Wall Street Journal  
October 8, 2015

20 Government  
Projects in ICT

**US \$ 277 million**

**40+ ODC**

(Offshore Development  
Centers) & Joint Ventures



**industry size and  
growth**

Financial Sector Secured Network

**US \$ 300 million**

FSD Project by Bangladesh Bank

Domestic IT  
Spending

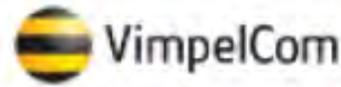
**US \$ 150  
million+**

# Some large companies operating in Bangladesh

## IT companies of Bangladesh serving globally



## Global companies in Bangladesh



# ICT Investment Opportunity in Bangladesh

## High Potential of IT Growth

- Over 2,50,000 IT professionals are working in about 800 software and IT service companies. Around 160 of these companies are specialized in serving overseas clients
- IT/ITES services exported to Japan, US, Canada, UK, Australia, India, and other nations
- 1,400 colleges across the country offer IT education programs. Every year, over 8,000 IT graduates pass out from universities and colleges
- A large number of these IT graduates also possess global IT vendor certificates (e.g. from Microsoft, CISCO, Oracle, Sun) along with their academic degrees
- Large number of firms are ISO, CMMIL-3, CMMIL-5 certified
- Since 1996, Government has been allowing zero/low tariff on computers and other capital goods required for software industries
- One-stop service for all Government approvals by BHTPA

## Lower Operational Costs in Bangladesh

Internet Charges	: 1.2 USD per GB approx.
Average Space Rent	: 0.60 USD per sqf. p.m. approx.
Electricity Charges	: 0.13 USD per Kwh
Land Lease Rent Rate	: 1.25 to 2.2 USD per sqm. p.m.
Average Manpower Cost	: 255 USD p.m. for entry level Manager/ Engineer

Some space will be available at a discounted rate

# Key Drivers for INVESTMENT in Bangladesh

- One of the largest and fastest growing technology markets in Southeast Asia
- Stable local currency and macro-economic situation ensuring stable returns on investment
- A large number of highly skilled IT professionals and English-speaking youths
- Competitive cost for HR and other infrastructures
- Above 6% GDP growth

## Ease of doing business

- One-stop service in HTP/STP investment
- Matured capital market for exit on investment
- Huge number of English-speaking youths
- Skilled professionals and ICT graduates
- Low cost of operations
- Low attrition rate
- No license required for operating call centres, only registration with BTRC
- Fiscal support to IT/ITES industry
- ICT business-friendly BHTPA Act
- One of the best FDI policies in the region
- Special double taxation avoidance treaty with many countries

## Bangladesh at a glance\*

Area : 147,570 sq. km  
Population : 164 Million  
GDP : \$ 209 Billion  
Growth : 6.5%+ Constant growth  
GNI per Capita : \$ 1315  
Forex Reserve : \$ 28 Billion  
Economically Active : 83% of Males  
Population (15+ yrs) : 59% of Females

\* BBS 2014

# J.P.Morgan

"Bangladesh has been named as one of the 'Frontier Five' (along with Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Nigeria)."



"Bangladesh ranked **33<sup>rd</sup>** in terms of GDP (PPP)."



"Bangladesh is one of the top **20** IT outsourcing destinations."  
- European Union

# coface

"Bangladesh enlisted into the next **10** emerging countries."

# Goldman Sachs

"Bangladesh is one of the members of the **Next Eleven (N-11)** countries, having strong potential to become one of the world's largest economies along with BRICS, exhibiting highly promising investment and future growth."



"Bangladesh is emerging as one of the world's next Great Growth Markets for Consumer Products."

# Gartner

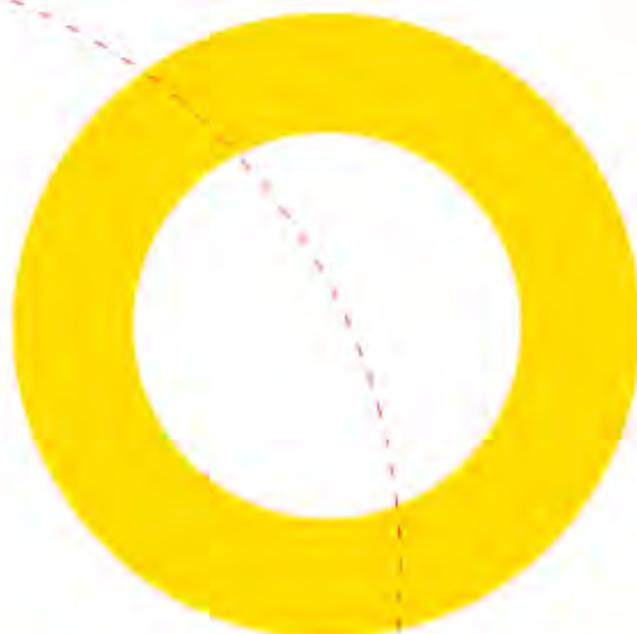
"Bangladesh has been enlisted in the Gartner's report as one of the Top **30** IT outsourcing destinations."

# MOODY'S

"Moody's has given Bangladesh a Ba3 stable rating for the **4<sup>th</sup>** consecutive year, while S&P has given the country a BB-Sovereign Credit rating for the **3<sup>rd</sup>** consecutive year."

# AT&Kearney

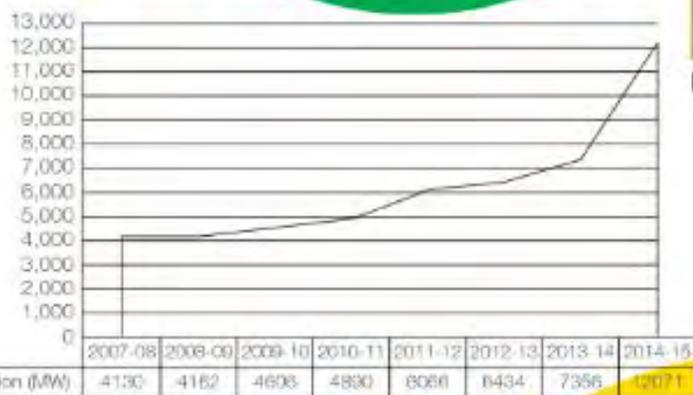
"Global Service Location Index (GSLI) has ranked Bangladesh **22<sup>nd</sup>** & in terms of financial attractiveness Bangladesh has ranked **1<sup>st</sup>**."



# Power Generation in Bangladesh



Upcoming Nuclear Power Plant



## Education in Bangladesh at a glance\*

Literacy Rate (%)	71.1
Universities	121
Colleges	3,547
Professional Edu. Institutes	316
Expenditure on Education	14.1%
High Schools	19,208
Polytechnic Institutes	103
Medical Colleges	82
Dental Colleges	13
Teachers' Edu. Institutes	209
Graduate Students	2 M+
Science Graduate Students	670 K+
IT Graduates per year	10 K+

\*BBS 2014



Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka



University of Chittagong

# Some large companies operating in Bangladesh

## IT companies of Bangladesh serving globally



## Global companies in Bangladesh





# DEVELOPERS FOR KALIAKOIR HI-TECH PARK

## ABOUT BANGLADESH TECHNOSITY LIMITED

A subsidiary of Fiber@Home Ltd., the leading telecommunication infrastructure company of Bangladesh.

A Bangladesh-Malaysia joint venture company, "Bangladesh Technosity Limited", registered under the laws of Bangladesh, was created to design, develop and operate Block 3 of Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park (KHTP) in Gazipur, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Committed to develop a world-class special economic zone for technology companies and to promote Bangladesh and Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park (KHTP) as a lucrative investment destination for investors to consider.

## VISION

"To promote and develop the IT & technology-oriented industries in Bangladesh by facilitating safe, convenient, and state-of-the-art industrial facilities for the existing and upcoming generations of innovators and entrepreneurs."



**THE FIRST  
MULTI-TENANT  
BUILDING AT  
BLOCK-3**

## Power Generation

- First power plant built almost 18 years ago
- Today the largest independent power producer
- Generating 17% of Bangladesh's power supply
- Operating over 1200 MW, 1500 MW in pipeline

## Telecommunication Infrastructure

- 27000 km of fiber optic network in Bangladesh
- Covering 61 districts and 319 upazilas
- Total client base 837
- Licensed to provide gateway services
- Connecting Bangladesh globally via international terrestrial cable

## Energy Fuel Trading and Supply

- Imports, supplies and transports energy fuel oil to power plants around Bangladesh
- 6 coastal tankers
- Storage facilities with 100,000 MT capacity
- Key suppliers include BP, Shell, Vital

## Port Operations

- Began operations in 2003
- 20% of Bangladesh containerized import and export cargo holding
- Completed construction of river terminal, first of its kind in the private sector
- Clients include Maersk, Damco, APL, etc

## Commercial Real Estate Development

- 3 million sqft, built up space underconstruction on 15 acres in Dhaka City
- 5 Star and 3 Star hotels underconstruction
- Concessionaire to develop the first hi-tech park in Bangladesh

## SUMMIT TECHNOPOLIS LTD.

Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park  
Block-2 & 5: Area- 91 Acres

- To become a regional manufacturing destination
- To empower the youth of Bangladesh
- To incubate and nurture homegrown start-ups and create a platform to work alongside MNCs
- We will set the highest "Green" Standards
- To support Bangladesh to move on to more value addition, more technology driven, more quality manufacturing
- To build a self-sustaining campus to promote innovation, successful commercialization of science and technology and economic growth to complement 'Vision 2021'

Block II



Block V





# SIGNATURE BUILDING OF SUMMIT TECHNOPOLOIS LIMITED

## 'A SYMBIOSIS OF NATURE, TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE'

Location: Block II, Kaliakoir HI Tech Park  
Site Area: 1,68,535 sqft. (15,657 sqm)  
Total Footprint Area: 55,585 sqft. (5,165 sqm)  
[39% of site area]  
Green Space: 61% of the total site area

### BUILDING DETAIL

**Total Buildable Area:** 1,63,045 sqft. (15,148 sqm)  
**Internal Courtyard:** 12,731 sqft. (1,182 sqm)  
**Total Office Area:** 97,500 sqft. (9,040 sqm)  
**Number of Floors:** 03



Outdoor Garden and Recreational Zone



Internal Courtyard

### Functional Amenities:

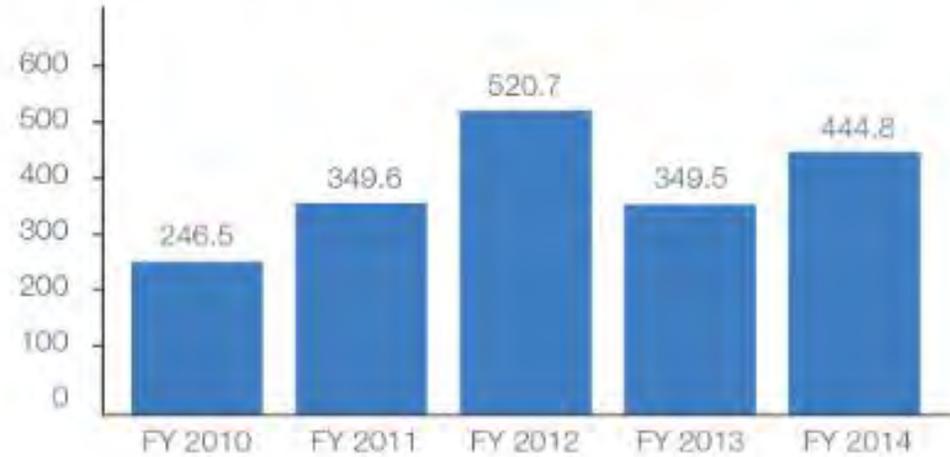
**Ground Floor:** Reception Lobby, Internal Courtyard, Rentable Plug & Play Office Spaces, Food Court, Indoor Games, Outdoor Recreational Spaces, Utility Services.  
**First Floor:** Reception Lobby, Rentable Plug & Play Office Spaces, Customizable Manufacturing Units, Services  
**Second Floor:** Reception, Rentable Plug & Play Office Spaces, Conference spaces/Training Centre, Services.



# Bangladesh's edge

- Consistent high operating profit forecast by foreign companies in Bangladesh.
- 90% communications and software companies expect same or better operating profit
- 71% companies plan to expand operations
- Stable increase in wages and other costs

## Trend in ICT Export (Million USD)



Source : Bangladesh Seventh Five Year Plan

## Lower base staff salary\*

Bangladesh	273
Sri Lanka	309
Philippines	474
India	570
Malaysia	991

\*USD p.m. JETRO Report Asia Oceania 2014



**BANGLADESH  
HI-TECH PARK  
AUTHORITY**

## Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority

ICT Division, Ministry of Posts,  
Telecommunications & Information Technology  
BCC Bhaban (10th Floor), Agargaon,  
Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

[www.bhtpa.gov.bd](http://www.bhtpa.gov.bd)

[www.ictd.gov.bd](http://www.ictd.gov.bd)

# CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH



## Champions of the Earth

Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the UN's highest environmental award on September, 2015 for outstanding leadership on the frontline of climate change, recognizing visionary people and organisations all over the world that exemplify leadership, and advocate action on sustainable development, climate change and a life of dignity for all.



## Bangladesh

is the host country  
for WITSA 2021

# BANGLADESH

## Your Destination for NEXT IT/ITES Investment



**ICT**  
DIVISION  
Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology

October 2015



# Why Bangladesh?



Availability of world class talent at 50% cost

**A**

Language potential in English/Arabic/Bangla

**B**

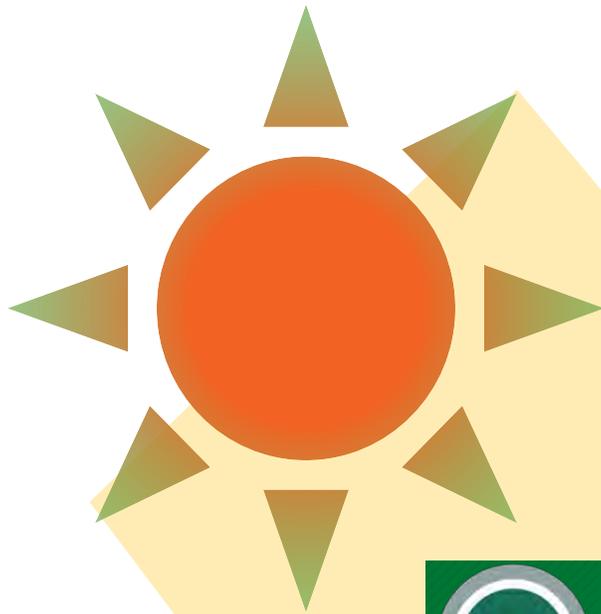
Muslim culture & food

**C**

Financial attractiveness

**D**

What's in it for you?



Fundamentals  
For A Better  
Destination



e-Governance, e-Services & Citizen connectivity



Rise of IT enabled Knowledge based Human Resource & Economy



IT ecosystem, Infrastructure & Business



Rise of IT enabled  
Knowledge based Human  
Resource & Economy



## Large Young Population with Skill, Education & Talent

2 Mln+ Grad Students at  
Universities & Colleges

670K+ Science Grad  
Students

403K+ Business Grad  
Students

1.5 Mln+ Bachelors Degree  
Students

240K+ MS Degree Students

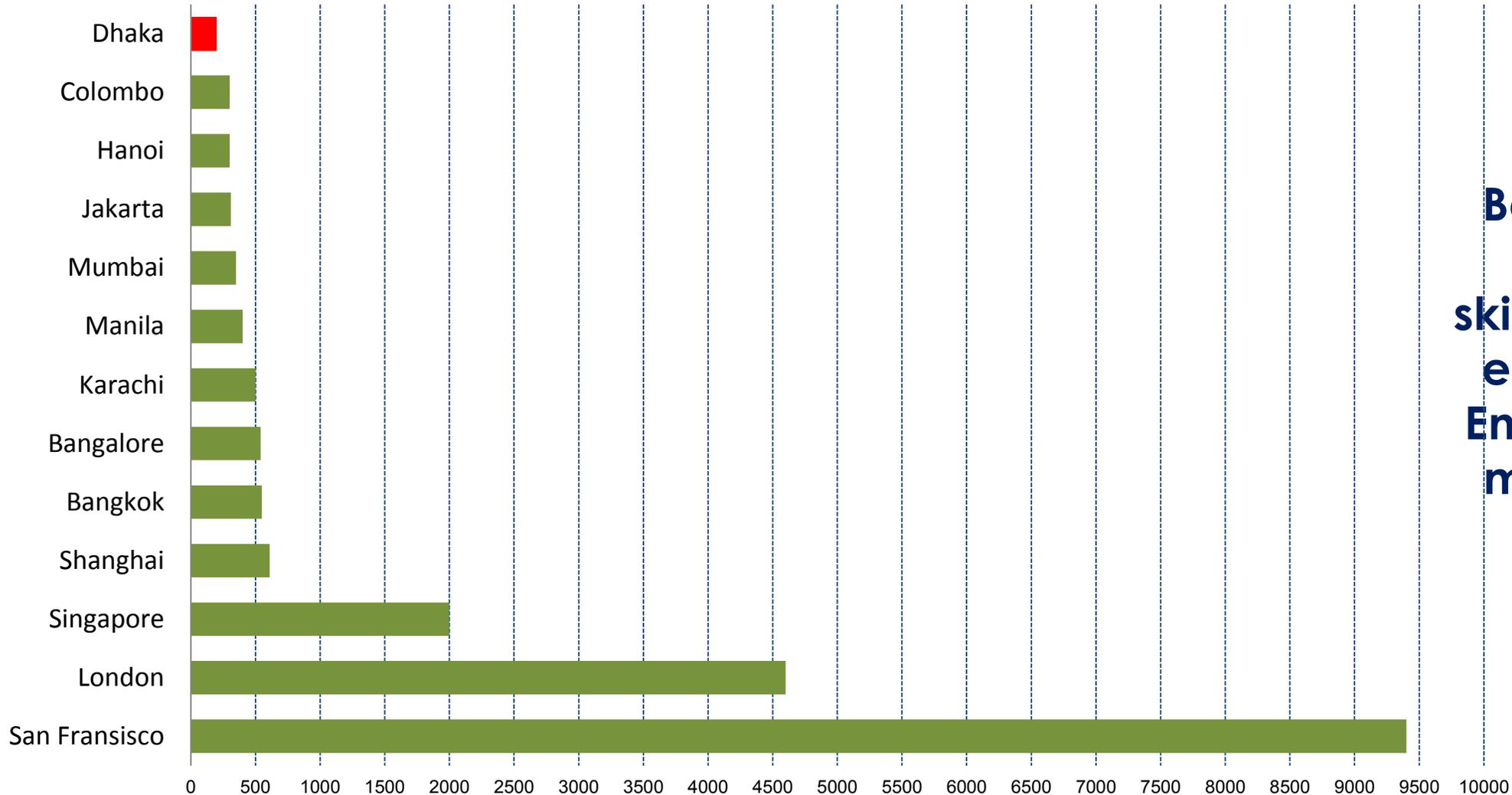
Training 74K+ Grads under  
IT/ITES Programs



# Rise of IT enabled Knowledge based Human Resource & Economy



Comparative costs of a mid level engineer's monthly wage in US\$

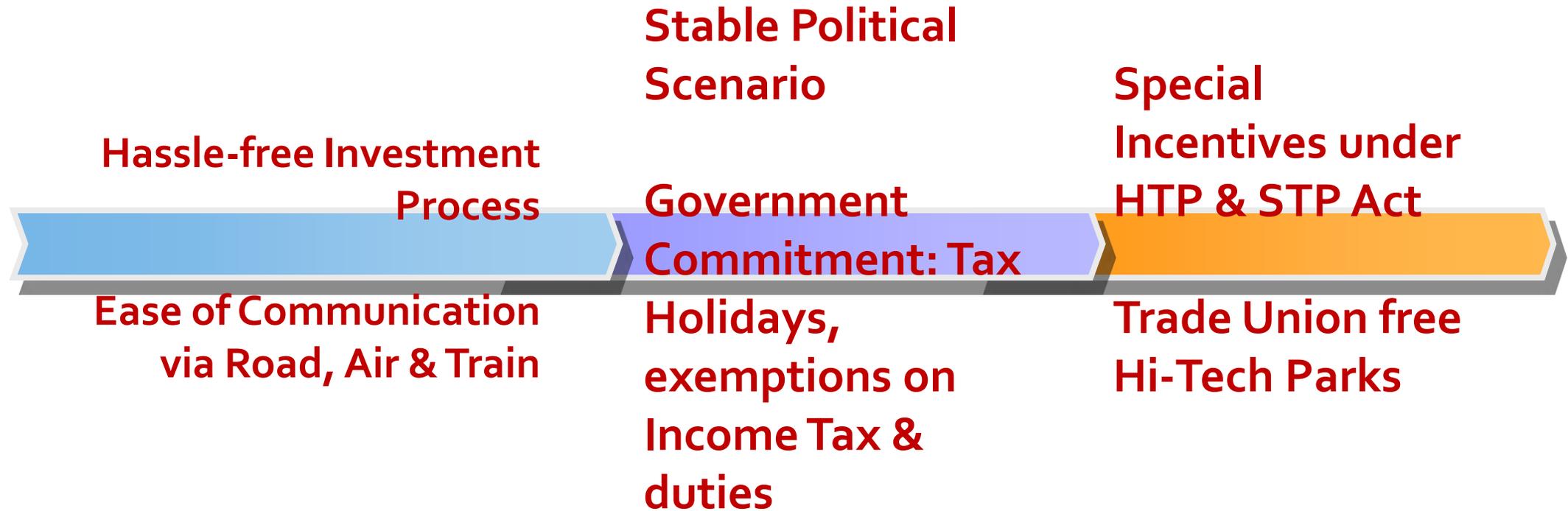


**Bangladesh  
offers  
skilled/educat  
ed top level  
Employees at  
much lower  
cost**

Sources: World Bank &  
Tholons



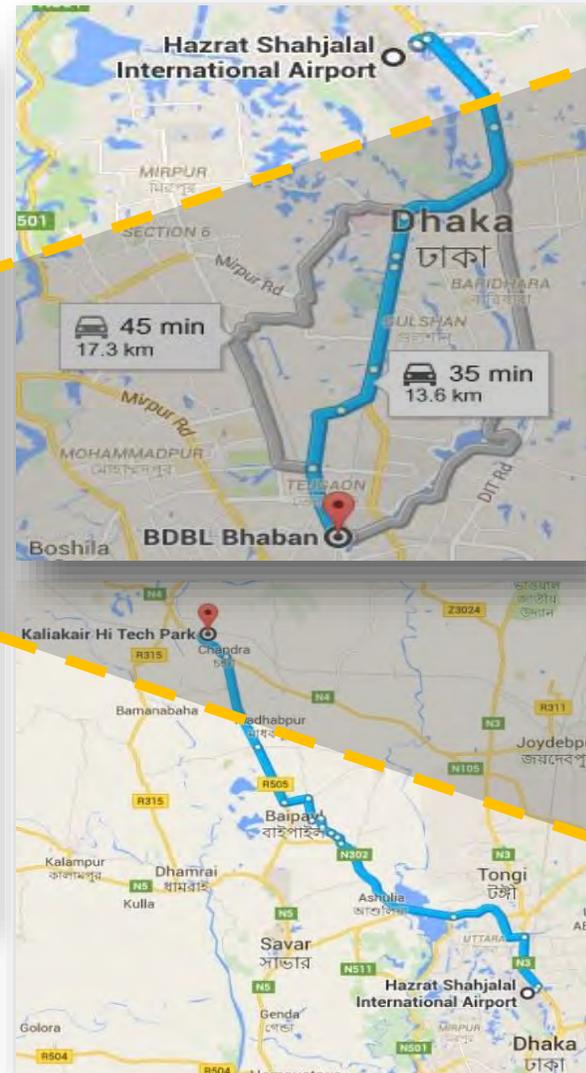
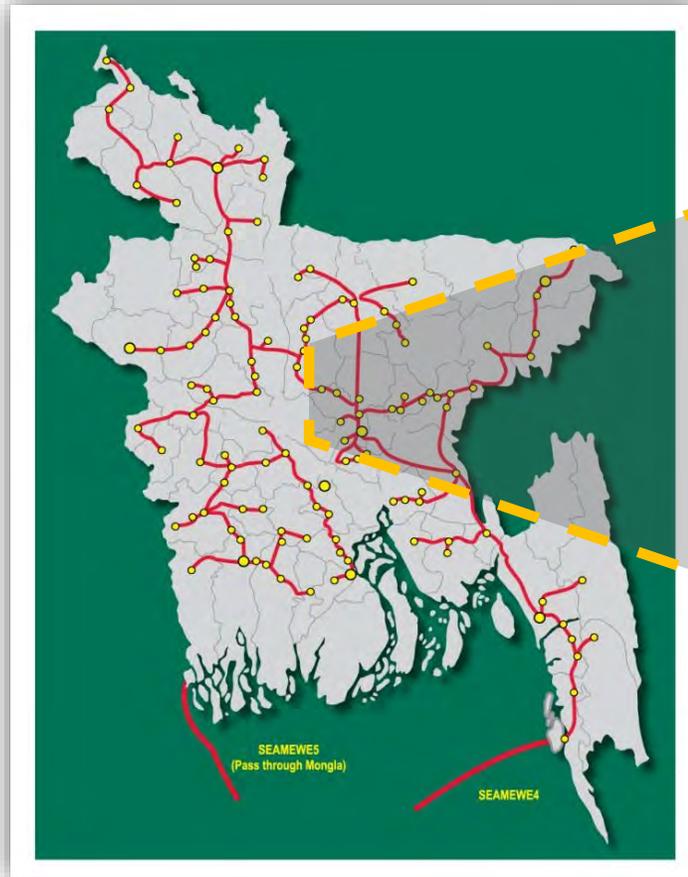
IT ecosystem, Infrastructure & Business



# New Era of Communication & Connectivity



IT ecosystem, Infrastructure & Business



**High Speed Fiber Connectivity  
SEAMEWE 4 & SEAMEWE 5 (99.99%)**

**Stable Power: 227% Growth (5  
Years)**

**35 Minutes drive from Airport to  
BDBL STP**

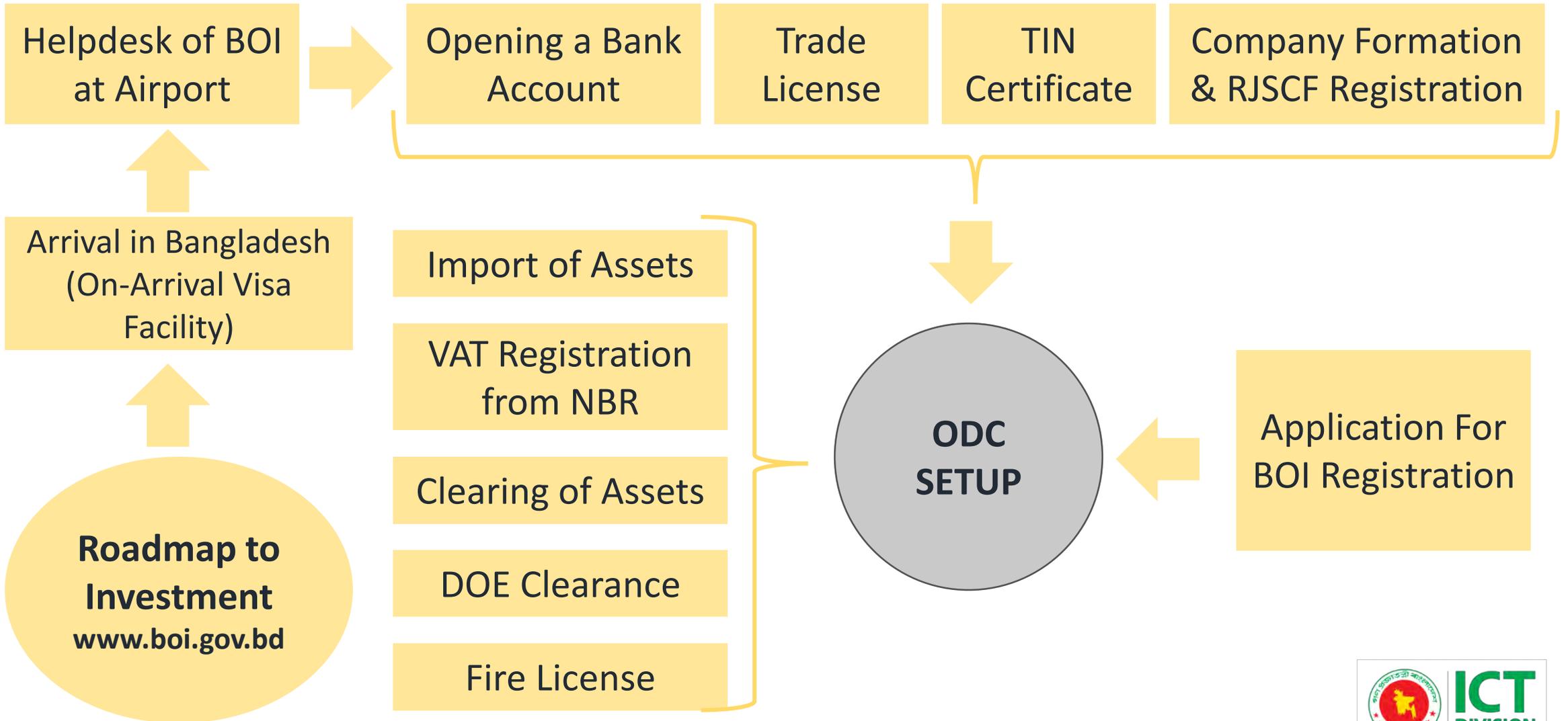
**1 Hour 14 Minutes Drive from  
Airport to Kaliakoir HTP**

**Highways & Airports connecting all  
the Hi-Tech Parks**

# Roadmap to Investment in Bangladesh



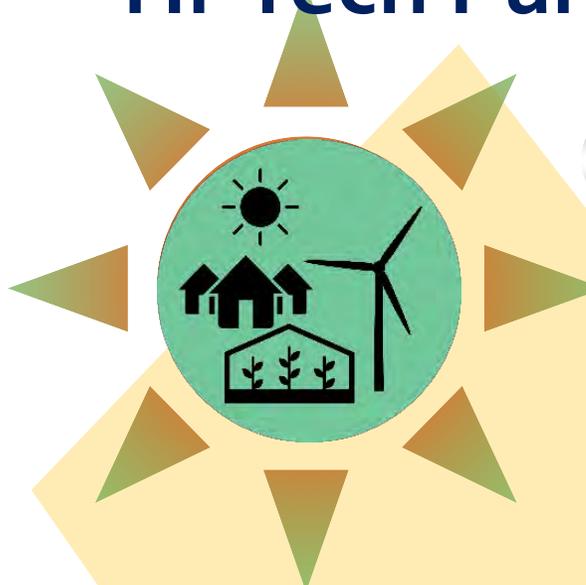
IT ecosystem, Infrastructure & Business



# Special Incentives under Hi-Tech Park



IT ecosystem, Infrastructure & Business



**Twelve years tax exemption for Developers**

**Ten years tax exemption for IT/ITES Companies**

**Duty free import of capital machineries and other assets**

**Bonded Warehouse station facilities in HTP/STP**

**Duty free import of 2 vehicles**

**100% ownership for foreign investors**

**100 % profit repatriation for foreign investors**



# Industry Size & Growth Potential

20 Government  
Projects in ICT  
US \$ 277 million

40+ ODC  
(Offshore Development  
Centers) & Joint Ventures

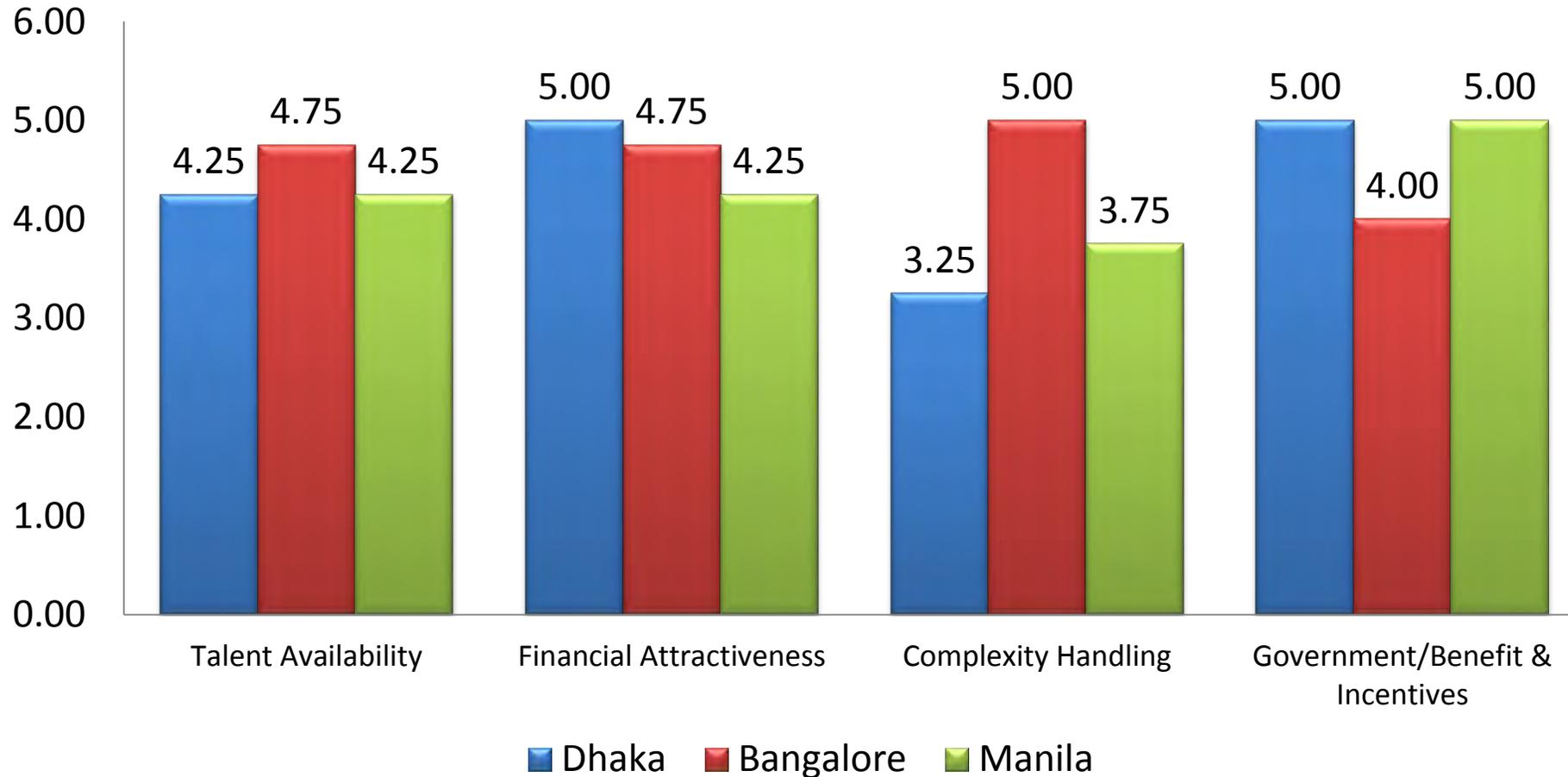


Domestic IT Spends  
US \$ 150  
million +

Sources:  
BTRC, BASIS, BOI, EPB

Export Revenue 2014  
US\$ 124 million  
**CAGR 25% over last 6 Years**

# A Comparative Competency Analysis



Source: Tholons

# A Comparative Competency Analysis



Particulars	Unit	Dhaka	Bangalore	Manila
Population	in million	16.04	10.83	1.88
Land Area	in sq. km	816	741	39
Attrition Rate	in % per year	5-8%	18-20%	20%
Communication Bandwidth	USD/10 mbps (unlimited data)	45	19	64
Rental Unfurnished Space	in USD/500 SFT	408	528	976
Salary Graduate Employee	in USD/annum	2800	5340	6124
Literacy Rate	in %	74.6	89%	95.60%



“Bangladesh Your  
NEXT IT-BPM  
Destination”



- Action items (306)