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Guest Editorial

Innovative Applications of IS/IT in a Developing Country

The growth of innovative applications of Information Systems and Information Technology (IS/IT) deserves special attention primarily in the context of developing countries. Innovative applications of IS/IT in the developing countries can play a key role in achieving the millennium development goals (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>). This special issue of ITMR presents five papers from the IEEE International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCIT) held on December 25-27, 2008. Ten papers were originally selected and their authors were invited to enhance their papers and submit to ITMR for the review process. After extensive peer review process five papers have been selected by the guest editors for publication in ITMR.

In the first paper, I U Sikder presents an innovation application of Web services in environmental planning by providing a framework for service integration and collaborative environmental modelling. Sikder's work will be extremely useful to urban planners and researchers. The 2nd paper is contributed by S Khan, M Toaha and M A Awal. In this paper the authors propose automated digital archive for land reforms and records in the context of Bangladesh. Bangladesh inherited her land management system from British rule of India, which, at present, is very labour intensive and as such inefficient. The authors' approach will be invaluable to land policy makers of the country and help alleviate the hardships caused by land related litigations. In the 3rd paper A M Dewan, S M Dewan and S A Nazmin present their findings on the adoption of ICT by state owned enterprises (SOE) in Bangladesh. The authors found that privatized SOEs are more proficient in adopting ICTs for productivity improvement. However, large gap exists between the adoption of IT and its actual use. The authors report various challenges faced by the SOEs which will be useful for the government and various stakeholders. S Banik and co-researchers offer a rainfall forecast model in the 4th paper. The authors use neural network and genetic algorithm approaches and compare them with traditional linear regression model. It has been found that regression model is outperformed by other approaches. Forecasting rainfall is vital for Bangladesh as the country depends on rainfall for its agriculture and other water related projects. The findings of this paper will be of tremendous value to government planners. In the 5th paper G Z Islam offers a flexible and appropriate e-governance prototype model for urban and rural areas of Bangladesh. Unique nature of this model is that it takes into account of the existing ICT infrastructure in Bangladesh. The author stresses the implementation aspect of e-governance

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model. The prototype will be useful for government's ICT planners as they move into the era of digital Bangladesh.

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