

# VoIP Deregulation in Bangladesh

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Presented by

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# HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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- 1994 - 1996
- Rolled out the first UUCP based email service in Bangladesh. 3 to 4 companies started commercial email service



- 1996 Frist VSAT and ISP licence (without voice) issued.
- First international satellite leased circuit (64 kbps) installed in 1996
- At presents more than 100 ISP is operational with approximately 200mbps of bandwidth.

# Movement for opening VoIP

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- 1998 ISP's started to feel that VoIP is a service that they can offer.
- Illegal call terminations started since then.
- 1999 outgoing call facilities to all ISP phone are stopped.
- 2000 ISPA decided to create public awareness and also to educate the regulators regarding the new technology.

# Movement for opening VoIP

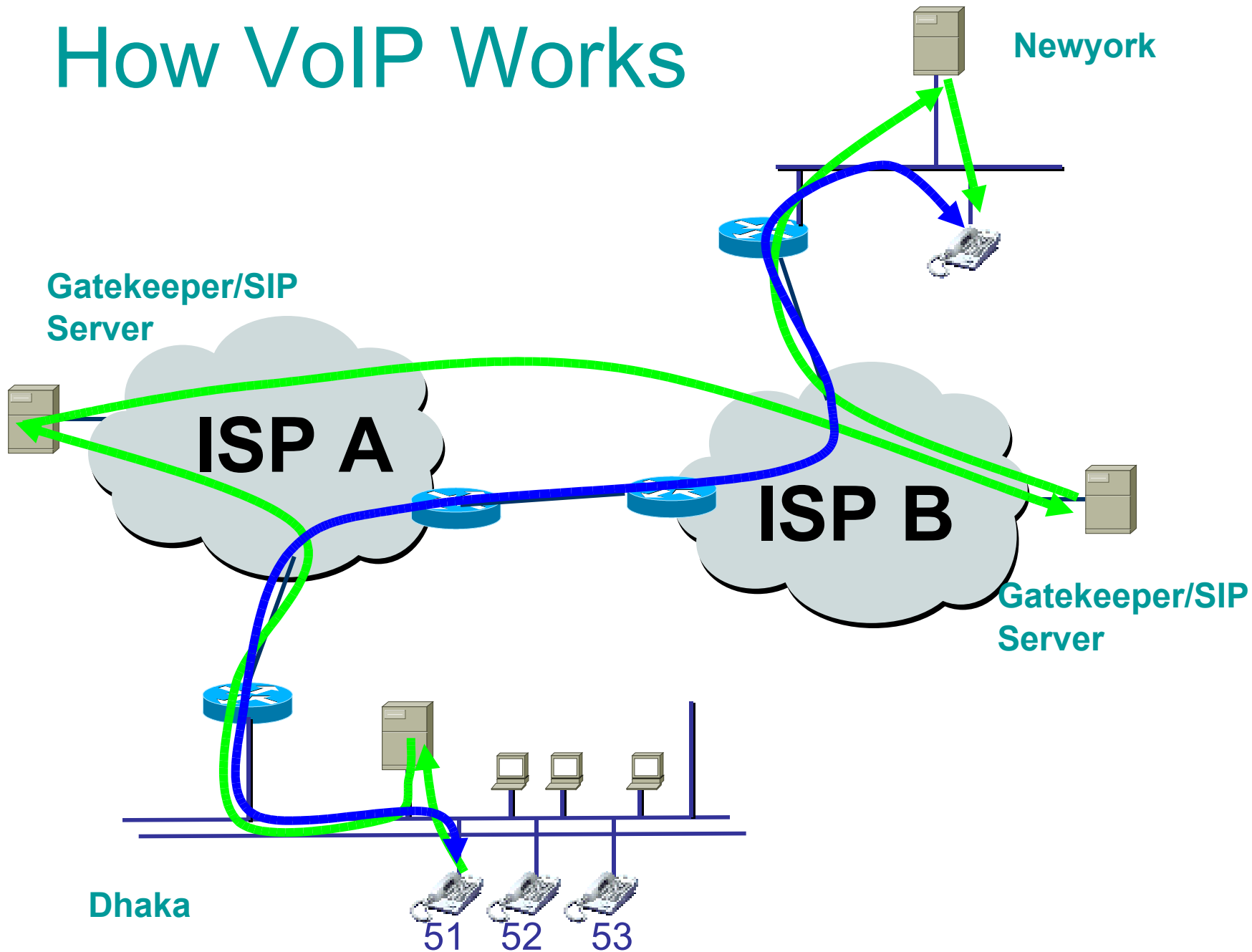
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## VOIP in Bangladesh

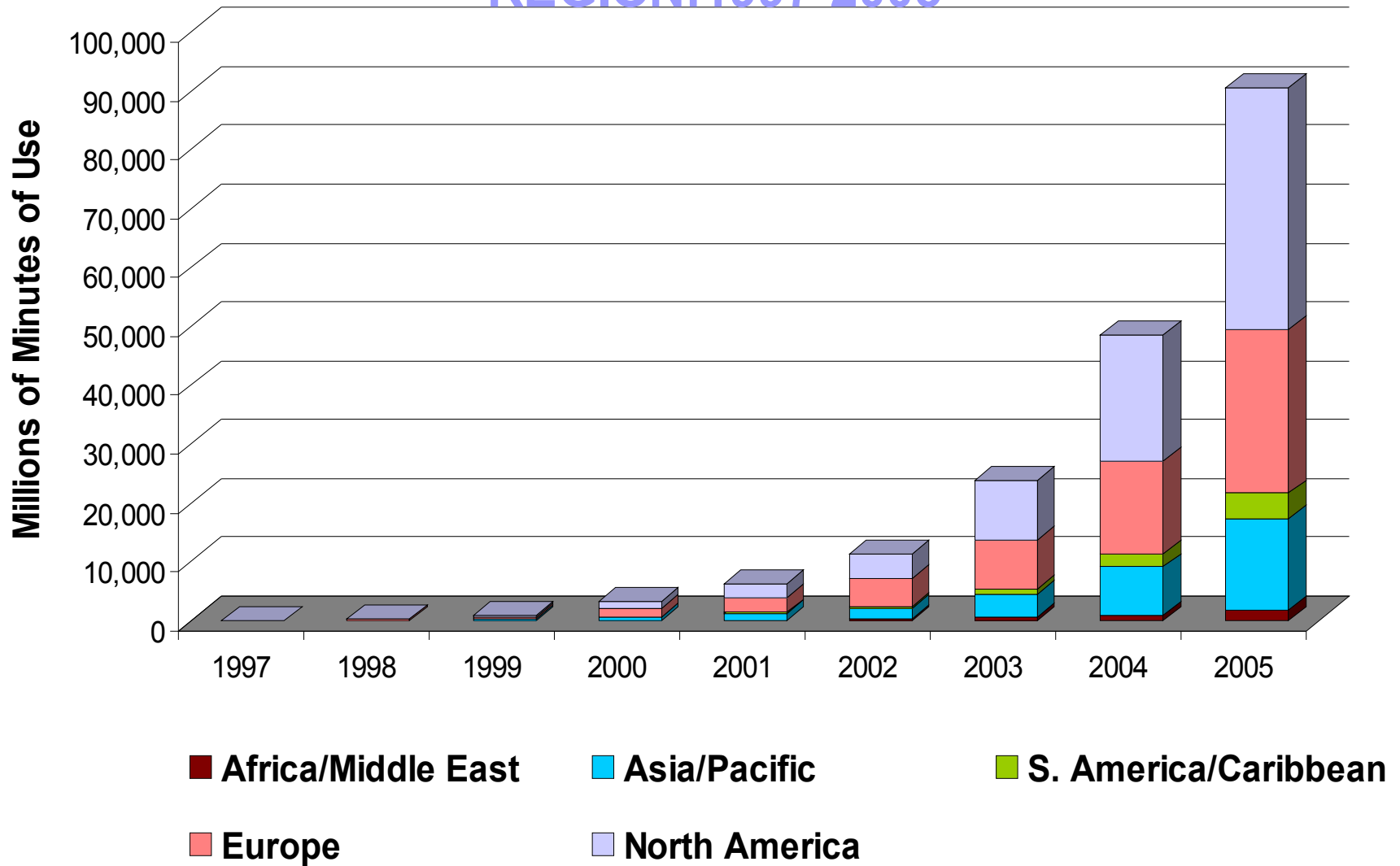
A Paper for the Honorable  
Secretary of the Ministry of  
Planning

Prepared by Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh

# How VoIP Works



# GLOBAL VoIP TRAFFIC BY ORIGINATING REGION:1997-2005



# Movement for opening VoIP

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- End of 2001- Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission formed.
- 2002-BTRC asked Investment Facilitation Center (IFC) to do a research and submit a proposal on legalising VoIP.

# IIFC Recommendation

December 14, 2002

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- 1. VOIP is implementable in Bangladesh.*
- 2. CBIC suggests a phased approach for VOIP introduction. However, some participants preferred more rapid opening up of the technology.*
- 3. There was a general agreement on past VAT records as a criteria for selection of operators.*
- 4. Requirement of performance guarantee was debated, however there should be some security deposits to prevent the “fly by night” operators. After few years, they should be reduced.*



# IIFC Recommendation

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5. *There should be minimum license fees and more dependence on revenue sharing. Declining scale of revenue sharing can be made: Higher revenue, less share.*
6. *A moratorium can be considered.*
7. *There was a general agreement on socio-economic requirement. But it should be discussed with the potential licensees.*
8. *Record of calls should be kept by the operator for audit by BTRC.*
9. *Sunset clause should be included in the operator license.*
10. *A minimum level of investment should be required as a selection criteria.*

# IIFC Recommendation

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- 11. With VOIP, monopoly of BTTB for long distance call will automatically go.*
- 12. BTRC has a strong role to play for mandatory interconnection with BTTB.*
- 13. A forum is needed to discuss interconnection issues as well as other disputes.*
- 14. Some minimum QOS criteria should be defined as a guideline. However, it is to be kept in mind that delays in the Satellite is beyond control of the operator.*

# Follow ups

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- BTRC declared they will create a licensing policy by February 2003
- Eventually submitted a proposal to Ministry of Post and Telecommunication in June 2003 based on IIFC recommendation.

# Follow ups

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- Ministry added a clause that all VoIP traffic must go through a Internet Exchange. And bounced it back to BTRC
- 28 February 2004- BTRC form a committee to plan for an Internet exchange. How to stop individual VSAT and force all to go through an earth station.

# Reports from the Committee

March 24, 2004

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- Internet exchange does not carry any sense for VoIP operation.
- IX means the central exchange point among the operators.
- It cannot be implemented physically and this would practically eliminate the chances of using VoIP by existing ISPs, who have invested heavily to establish there VSAT.
- An IX is a place where diff. ISP's connect to each other for sending traffic between each other's network.

- Today the new policy is waiting for approval by Cabinet.
- We are expecting for the approval by July 2004!!!

*Thank you*

And a warm welcome to

# SANOG-5

Dhaka, Bangladesh

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