

<p>Prof. Muhammad Yunus Founder & Managing Director Grameen Bank Nobel Peace Laureate</p>	<p>Greetings from Bangladesh.</p>
	<p>I always felt very strongly about information technology - the power of information technology to change the world - particularly change the condition of the poor people.</p> <p>And we worked with the poor people for a long time, we are doing it for the last 31 years.</p>
	<p>And within Grameen Bank we have reached out to seven and a half million borrowers, 97% of them are women - and as you know Grameen Bank lends tiny amount of money for income generating purposes to the poor people, particularly poor women.</p> <p>And what help that is - with that tiny little money, forty dollars, fifty dollars, hundred dollars, they change their life.</p>
	<p>So it makes a lot of difference when you open an opportunity for the poor people - this is strange that the banking system kind of denies access to financial services to the vast majority of the population of the world, so it creates a big financial divide.</p>
	<p>So what Grameen Bank is trying to do is to end that divide, financial divide. And what we are doing now, Craig Barrett and I'm trying to create something which will address the information technology divide.</p>
	<p>Today, Craig Barrett and I'm announcing a joint venture between Grameen and Intel to create an institution, a business to end that divide.</p>
	<p>Today information technology is enjoyed by the top people in the world, higher level income people in the world, not the bottom level income people - so our attempt through this joint venture between Intel and Grameen would be to make this happen, to bring it to the poorest people in Bangladesh and hopefully</p>

	spreading around the world.
Prof. Muhammad Yunus Founder & Managing Director Grameen Bank Nobel Peace Laureate	We start small, as a social business - we'll create it as a social business - and expand it to bring information technology to the poorest people.
	And we see the possibilities of using this information technology for the poor people - in marketing, in bringing financial services, in bringing healthcare, in bringing education, information, in every single way there're lots of possibilities.
	Social business, the one term that I'm using, is something we have been promoting for years now - so here the social objective is to end the digital divide, so that the people at the very bottom have the same facilities, same privileges as the people at the top.
	Congratulations again for holding this conference, and I'll look forward to meeting you some other time and will be very happy if you can put out energy and our creativity towards ending this digital divide. Thank you Craig, thank you Intel and thank you everybody.
	If we keep trying, I'm sure we can make a big difference - already there are lots of small efforts all over the world. But we need to make it more concentrated, more focused. If we put our mind into it, we can do it. Let's do it.

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