at 8:45 am, we left the hotel punctually as usual. Today, we were very excited to meet the government division of Bangladesh. We were wondering how will their government building look like and how will their government officials act like.

After 20 minutes driving, we were at Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. The picture on the left is the great window view of the conference room.
Md. Monwar Hasan Khan, Senior Assistant Chief, accommodate us warmly. We started off the meeting by introducing each other. He kindly introduces to us his education history, working experiences and his family.
The Director of Sustainable Energy Department and Senior Assistant Chief had great interest in our project, and were willing to share their knowledge and experience and keep touch with us for further discussion.

Md. Monwar Hasan Khan  
(Senior Assistant Chief)
The Director of Sustainable Energy Department discussed the rules and regulations of renewable energy power in Bangladesh and shared their vision on the electricity demand in Bangladesh till 2021. In addition, they gave us detailed information on the 100 KW Mini-grid Solar System, and compared it with our 3 KW Nano-grid Solar System. Besides, they shared with us the government’s measures to motivate private companies to do solar system.
From the meeting with Power Division today, not only did we clarify some assumptions on our current model, but we also had understanding on renewable energy development from perspective of government. They also provided us the materials on their Solar Development Program for reference.
The team met Infrastructure Development Company Limited., IDCOL, at 2 PM.

This is a demo model outside IDCOL office. The solar mini grid model here is a simple version of what the group has seen on the on-site visit. As the model demonstrated, the new market and broad application of solar power are shown here in Bangladesh.
We first discussed the financing options and availability of carbon credit market in Bangladesh with Mr. Karim.

Then joined by the CEO, we kept our topics on the strategy and projects of IDCOL.
The CEO Md. Malik (left) shared his view on how IDCOL is facilitating all the renewable energy projects. Serious but kind, he left several insightful suggestions on micro-grid projects.

Md. Enamui Karim, head of renewable energy (right) were discussing with the team’s findings and shared his concerns and outlook on our model.
As one of the key stakeholders in the mini-grid ecosystem, IDCOL provided a lot of useful feedback with regard to financing scheme and technical specifications. Prudent yet progressive, IDCOL is open to ideas that will do good to development in rural areas. The team and IDCOL agreed on exchanging models both parties were working on. We will communicate more findings after reviewing the IDCOL mini-grid model.
After a fruitful day of meetings, we marched through the crowded street back to hotel. Being a part of the crowd squeezing in the chaotic traffic was the closest moment we are to this thriving and busy city. Though there are a lot of development issues, the diligent and resilient people here are sure to conquer what’s ahead, rural electrification, is just one of them.