

7/10/2025

Mohammad Aminul Hakim
President
Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB)
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dear Mr. Hakim

Re: Least Developed Country (LDC) Graduation

I deeply appreciate my meeting with you and the ISPAB EC members on 24 May 2025 during my inaugural visit to Dhaka at the sidelines of bdNOG 19.

I wanted to provide an update on the concerns you had raised on behalf of your members regarding Bangladesh's upcoming graduation from LDC status, which will impact APNIC Members in Bangladesh, as APNIC provides a 50% discount on membership fees for LDC economies.

I have since conveyed our discussion to the APNIC EC. After much deliberation, the APNIC EC announced a new phased fees approach to LDC graduation during the APNIC Member Meeting at APNIC 60 in Da Nang, Viet Nam.

Under the new approach, all future LDC graduations will be subject to the following fee schedule changes:

- On the first membership renewal following the LDC graduation date, Very Small account holders will receive a 25% discount on the full fee. All other account holders will be charged the full fee.
- On the second membership renewal following the LDC graduation date, all account holders will be charged the full fee.

Our consultation on this topic identified that Very Small Members, whose revenue is typically small, are most sensitive to an increase in fees due to LDC graduation, and therefore, were in most need of fee assistance.

We note that the above discount of 25% will provide relief to around 71% of the total graduating Members in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Lao PDR in 2026. It will also benefit Very Small Members for LDC economies graduating going forward, such as the Solomon Islands in 2027 and Cambodia in 2029.

APNIC continues to offer payment by instalment, or a payment extension, on a case-by-case basis to account holders from graduating LDC economies requiring further assistance. We will be happy to partner with ISPAB to assist your members further.

Thank you again for raising this issue with me, which contributed significantly to the EC's resolution.

I am working on the other issues we'd discussed during our meeting in Dhaka in May, and look forward to collaborating with ISPAB further. I look forward to meeting you again in the near future.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jia Rong Low'.

Jia Rong Low
Director General and CEO
APNIC