

Meeting Minutes

Agenda:	First Roundtable on the Manifesto of SQA Bangladesh
Date:	May 20, 2006
Start Time:	4:30 pm
End Time:	6:00 pm
Participants: (Name and Company)	Zularbine Kamal, Uniqa BDC Ltd. Syed Asadul Haq, Uniqa BDC Ltd. Kabir Ahmed, Metatude Asia Ltd. Tahmidul Islam, Relisource Tech Ltd. Tuhin Islam, Grameen Phone Mosharraf Hossain, eGeneration Syed Shabbir Husain, Uniqa BDC Ltd. Shahadatul Hakim, Enosis Sajjadul Hakim, Uniqa BDC Ltd.
Moderator:	Sajjadul Hakim
Scribe:	Sajjadul Hakim

Roundtable Objective

1. Use consensus in decision making.
2. This is a start with more sessions on the way.
3. Each session should be a mature reflection of all ideas that will converge into an inspirational and practical form.

Manifesto Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. The Issue
 - a. State of Software Industry in Bangladesh
 - b. Solution to the Problem
 - c. Why Others Failed
3. Intentions of SQA Bangladesh
 - a. Mission
 - b. Vision
4. What is Boot Camp
 - a. Overview
 - b. Objective
 - c. Trainee Selection Criteria
5. First Boot Camp
 - a. Content
 - b. Prerequisites
 - c. Venue
 - d. Time and duration
 - e. Q&A
6. Progress Barometer
 - a. Measuring Event Success
 - i. Short term
 - ii. Long term

- b. Measuring Group Success
 - i. Short term
 - ii. Long term
- 7. Sponsors

Due to time constraints only “The Issue” section was discussed in this session.

The Issue

State of Software Industry in Bangladesh

1. Software development does not undergo proper SQA. There are a few reasons for this
 - a. Domestic projects do not require any SQA.
 - i. This is mainly because customers are not aware of it.
 - ii. Hence no budget is allocated for SQA.
 - iii. Even Government Tender evaluation does not allocate significant points for SQA. Hence the lowest bidder usually gets the job.
 - iv. However, this argument does not go far since there are only a few companies whose business is solely the Domestic market.
 - b. Most Outsourced projects require SQA.
 - i. However the SQA activities are not well defined.
 - ii. So companies usually employ inexperienced testers, while they themselves have little know-how, to fulfill the prerequisite.
 - iii. This does more harm than good.
2. Insufficient SQA practitioners for hiring. There are a few reasons for this
 - a. Academia
 - i. Universities do not educate SQA as a career path.
 - ii. The courses taught are too theoretical.
 - iii. Testing tools are not taught to students like in programming courses or software engineering courses. Students are not even made aware of testing tools.
 - iv. Universities are not aware of the demand in the corporate world for the right kind of engineers.
 - b. Software Companies
 - i. Does not have any affiliation with Universities to hire the brightest graduates
 - ii. Does not provide feedback to Universities regarding their curriculum
 - iii. Does not provide the environment where SQA practitioners may flourish
3. There is a misconception that SQA is expensive and that a lot of staffing is required
 - a. So only a few companies follow effective SQA practices
 - b. So only a few companies have dedicated SQA teams
4. Software companies know the issues but do not know the proven solution
5. SQA is not recognized as a career path because there is little knowledge of its roles, activities and potentials
6. Most SQA practitioners are either overburdened or ineffective

Solution to the Problem

1. Create a pool of SQA practitioners so that they are easily accessible for discussion, collaboration and providing solution
2. Training needs to be carried out at three levels
 - a. Academia
 - i. Students
 - ii. Faculties
 - b. Software Companies
 - i. Managers
 - ii. Developers
 - iii. Testers
 - c. Customers
 - i. Government
 - ii. End users
3. Training criteria
 - a. Training should be specialized on limited content
 - b. Training need to have a practitioners approach so that Trainees can implement the practices
 - c. Trainees need to influence change in the industry from academia to the software houses to the customers
4. Issues faced by Trainees during implementation need to be resolved through the user group mailing list or face to face discussions
5. Expose the source of SQA related material
6. Create a culture of R&D
7. Progress need to be measured at regular intervals
8. Maintain a list of companies that implement SQA, and monitor the growth
9. Certification is not a solution

Why Others Failed

1. Training sessions were short with huge content to cover
2. Covered mainly “What to do” instead of “How to do”
3. Did not target energetic and passionate trainees who are determined to influence change in the industry
4. No feasible criteria to measure the success of the training
5. No follow up on issues faced by the trainees during implementation
6. Certification was considered a solution

Decisions and ToDo

1. Tahmid Munaz has generously sponsored to register a domain for SQA Bangladesh (www.sqabd.com)
2. Tahmid Munaz will set up phpbb in the new domain for discussions on specific roundtable issues