

## **TEIN community welcomes Myanmar through connection of mmREN**

The Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN), a dedicated high-capacity research and education network in the Asia-Pacific region, has recently connected the Myanmar Research and Education Network (mmREN) at a capacity of 45 Mbps. This connection was implemented in the framework of the Asi@Connect project, which is co-funded by the European Union up to 2021. This milestone will enable the higher education and research community in Myanmar to connect and collaborate with peers around the globe; furthermore, it opens up opportunities to enhance human capacity building for ICT engineers and administrators through Asi@Connect training programmes, such as campus network design and ICT technical training workshops. mmREN has developed a roadmap to connect its member institutions to TEIN in four phases over the next 4 years.

Stressing the significance of this connection, H.E. Mr. Kristian SCHIMIDT, EU Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, commented: "Asi@Connect is an excellent example of regional integration, with the R&E communities of 22 Asia-Pacific countries inter-connected by powerful high-capacity, high quality Internet links. The recent network connection between mmREN and TEIN will contribute to the development of a secure, open and cooperative ICT environment for Myanmar's higher education and research community and, in turn, benefit society as a whole."

Rector Ms. Mie Mie Thet Thwin, Head of mmREN, added: "mmREN will serve as a learning platform to improve the quality of research and teaching of universities that will produce entrepreneurs and qualified graduates and this will contribute to the socio-economic development of Myanmar. People of Myanmar are empowered by a 'the desire to learn' mindset. This will have a major positive impact on our country's growth. We, together with our leader, Daw Aung San Su Kyi, believe that nothing can separate us - neither religion, nor race, nor nationality, not even different levels of excellence in academic affairs. We want to invest in new technologies because we want to remain competitive in tackling the new challenges that lie ahead. We are very grateful to be part of the TEIN community and consider TEIN a gateway to participate remotely and interactively in lectures held anywhere in the world. We expect our community to get a lot of benefits in ongoing education, networking opportunities, the cultivation of relationships and the pursuit of personal and professional development. Our country is in transition, we have a lot of challenges, but we are on the right track with the extent of progress under our Leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi together with our people. As Head of mmREN I'd recommend more and more foreign investors to come and make investments in Myanmar. We are willing to work together with all other countries to build a nation we can be proud of."

The TEIN connection to mmREN will enable students, faculty, researchers and administrators to access an extensive national online library and to work together locally, nationally and internationally using state-of-the-art networking and computing facilities. One of the top priorities for the mmREN community is investment in their human resources. It is also fundamental to mmREN community's sustainable development plan. mmREN is now working hard to provide better access to health and education facilities, and new opportunities for the people of Myanmar to achieve their potential.

### **About Asi@Connect**

The EU co-funded Asi@Connect project provides a dedicated regional high capacity and high quality internet network, Trans-Eurasia Information Network(TEIN), for research and education(R&E) communities across Asia-Pacific and Europe, and leverages e-infrastructures developed for public service projects. This project marks the 4<sup>th</sup> phase of EU funding to the Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) programme which was launched as an Asia-Europe Meeting

(ASEM) Initiative in 2000; it successfully established a regional research and education internet network from scratch in 2004 and progressively expanded its geographical footprint over the years. Asi@Connect takes over the R&E backbone from TEIN-4, the most recent phase in the TEIN Initiative and will continue to connect regional researchers with their counterparts in Europe via [GÉANT](#), the world's most advanced international research and education network, providing the Asia-Pacific countries with a gateway for global research collaboration. Asi@Connect receives €20 Million funding from the EU up to 2021 with additional financial contributions from the Asian partners.

The Asi@Connect partners are the National Research & Education Network associations (NRENs) of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, The Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Asi@Connect is managed by the regional networking organisation TEIN\*Cooperation Center (TEIN\*CC) which was endorsed by the ASEM-8 Summit in Brussels in 2010, and established in Seoul, Korea in 2011.

To find out more, visit [www.tein.asia](http://www.tein.asia)

### **About mmREN**

The University of Computer Studies in Yangon (UCSY) has been acting as the Myanmar's national research and education network (mmREN). Since 2012, UCSY has contributed to establishing mmREN that is set to become a digital platform for all universities in the country. UCSY is one of the leading institutions in Myanmar, fostering research & teaching collaboration and information sharing between universities in Myanmar and internationally. Since the beginning of UCSY's engagement in the TEIN programme in 2012, several knowledge sharing sessions and capacity building activities for member universities have been conducted under the TEIN-4 and Asi@Connect projects. For more information about UCSY, visit <http://www.ucsy.edu.mm/>