

Mongolia Research and Education Network (ErdemNet) connected to TEIN (Trans Eurasia Information Network)

The Mongolia Research and Education Network (ErdemNet) has recently connected to the Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN), the high-capacity regional research and education (R&E) network in the Asia-Pacific.

At an initial capacity of 150 Mbps, ErdemNet's connection was implemented in the framework of the EU-funded regional R&E network project Asi@Connect and will further enable the higher education and research communities in Mongolia to participate in collaborative R&E activities with peers across the region and across the globe. In addition, this step opens up opportunities to enhance human capacity building for network engineers and campus IT administrators through Asi@Connect training programmes, and to engage in global collaborations in tele-medicine, e-science, e-learning and best practise exchange.

Along with the recent connection of Bhutan to the TEIN backbone, Mongolia's addition to the TEIN network topology map marks a major achievement for the TEIN community: all 24 partner countries participating in the Asi@Connect project are now connected and, by extension, have access to the global R&E network infrastructure through TEIN's international interconnections, such as with the pan-European network GÉANT.

Erdemnet 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, Professor Erdenebaatar Altangerel, Mongolian University of Science and Technology, commented:

"Asi@Connect is an excellent example of regional integration, with the R&E communities of 24 Asia-Pacific countries inter-connected by powerful high-capacity, high quality Internet links. The recent network connection between Erdemnet and TEIN will contribute to the development of a secure, open and cooperative ICT environment for Mongolia's higher education and research community and, in turn, benefit society as a whole. As the executive director of the Mongolian Information Technology Consortium, I had meetings with representatives of scientific institutions such as National University of Mongolia, University of Science and Technology (MUST), Medical University and Academia of Sciences. They expressed deep interest in the Asi@Connect project and I hope they will join this network soon with new ideas.

Our first member institution to connect will be the School of Geology and Mining Engineering of MUST; they have existing collaborations with Beijing SHRIMP Center, Institute of Geology and the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences in the area of mineral research. Rather than having to rely on the commercial Internet to adequately meet their data communications needs, these collaborations will hugely benefit from this connectivity solution associated with the TEIN connection. The TEIN connection to ErdemNet 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 ErdemNet community is investing in people and skills, which is key for sustainable development planning. ErdemNet is now working hard to provide better access to health and education facilities, and to create new opportunities for the people of Mongolia 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 4th phase of EU funding to the 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

About ErdemNET

The Computer Science and Management School (CSMS) of Mongolian Technical University (MTU) is the catalysing entity of the Mongolian national research and education network (ErdemNet). Since 2000, CSMS of MUST has contributed to establishing ErdemNet which is set to become an academic ISP for all universities in the country. CSMS is one of the leading institutions in Mongolia, fostering research & teaching collaborations and information sharing between universities in Mongolia and internationally. Since the beginning of ErdemNet's engagement in the TEIN programme in 2013, 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 us, visit <http://edu.mn/>

ErdemNet is the networking department of the Information Technology Center of Education under the Ministry of Education and Science.