Increasing the visibility and outreach of et Erdemnet, the Mongolian NREN

Background

Erdemnet was originally established in 2000 by the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST), as an internet service provider (ISP) for education organizations. Over the next 20 years, it was expanded to connect the networks of many Mongolian tertiary institutions and related academic organizations. Erdemnet joined Trans-Eurasia information network (TEIN) in October 2020 as Mongoliaís national research and education network (NREN). The increased visibility of Erdemnet as an NREN will allow it to expand its network to Mongolian education and research institutions, thereby supporting international collaboration and co-operation. This will also allow access to international funding opportunities for Mongolian researchers via programmes such as Asi@Connect.

Objectives

The main objective of this project is to increase the visibility of Erdemnet at national and regional levels, which will support the NRENsí future sustainable operation and growth.

Activities

1) **The TEIN project launch event** was held on 28 October 2022, and was attended by over 50 representatives of international research and education networks.

2) **A survey was carried out** among a wide range of researchers at the top 10 universities of Mongolia earlier in the year, as to the perceived value of such a network

3) **The Erdemnet NREN website** in both Mongolian and English languages has been developed and is hosted at https://erdemnet.mn/.

4) **The presentations on Erdemnet and TEIN** have been delivered to over 80 researchers from the Academy of Sciences as well as senior management from across the Mongolian education system.

5) **The Knowledge Sharing Workshop** was organized on 7 June 2023 within the framework of the ICT EXPO MINDGOLIA-2023 and was attended by over 70 representatives of the education and research institutions. Representatives from Philippineís PREGINET and Koreaís KREONET and Japanís Kyushu University Hospital participated in this workshop.

6) **The "Erdemnet and TEIN" booth** at the EduTech pavilion of the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia had over 300 visitors. The Minister of Education and Science of Mongolia visited the booth and Mr. Nanjidjamts from Erdemnet briefed him about TEIN, and the connectivity benefits it provides across the wider Asian region.

7) **The "ICT Forum" supported by TEIN project** was attended by over 200 people. Mr. Bayani Benjamin Lara from Philippines PREGINET was the panelist during ìConnectivityî session of the forum and provided an excellent summary of the recent developments across the Philippines.

Challenges and overcoming the challenges:

- **Understanding of the importance of TEIN by top decision makers of the education and research institutions:** Research conducted among the research and education institutions, showed there is a need for increased understanding and support from the top decision makers regarding the benefits of connecting to Erdemnet. Senior managers of institutions attended the project launch event and the knowledge sharing workshop, plus the project team made special presentations for the universitiesí staff. The project team supported the setup of the ìErdemnet and TEINî booth during the ICT EXPO MINDGOLIA-2023, which was attended by a large number of the decision makers, such as Minister of Education and Science of Mongolia, directors of departments, vice rectors of universities, etc.

- **Knowledge and experience on using the TEIN:** Mongolian researchers and educators were interested in seeing the innovative ways they could use Erdemnet and TEIN network. The participation of the representatives of NRENs from Philippines ñ PREGINET, of Korea ñ KREONET and Telemedicine Development Center from Japan also demonstrated the actual applications and usage of the Erdemnet and TEIN networks.

- **Addressing the organizational and financing issues of Erdemnet.** During the knowledge sharing workshop and presentations to universities top management, numerous questions were asked about the costs associated with connecting to Erdemnet and how it is being organized. Erdemnetís TEIN connection is currently funded through the Education Information Technology Center of the Ministry of Education and

Science. However, there is certainly a need to develop a financing and organizational structure framework for Erdemnet in the future.

Asi@Connect support

• Asi@Connect supported the full financing of the project.
• Asi@Connect staff connected the project team with the Korean NREN ñ KREONET of the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Innovation and Mr. Buseung Cho, the Director of KISTI delivered an online presentation about the KREONET during the knowledge sharing workshop.

Impacts so far and benefits to the TEIN community

1) Improved understanding and knowledge of Erdemnet and TEIN. Through the TEIN project launch event, meetings, and presentations to management of the education and research institutions, conducting research on the demand for TEIN network connectivity, organizing knowledge sharing workshop and working with the Ministry of Education and Science, there is an increased understanding and knowledge about the Erdemnet and TEIN. In particular, the participation of the representatives of the Philippineís PREGINET, Koreaís KREONET, and Japanís Telemedicine Development Center has increased the interest of research institutions to connect to Erdemnet and TEIN.

2) The website of Erdemnet will serve as a resource for education and research institutions. The Erdemnet website (https://erdemnet.mn/) provides information related to connecting to Erdemnet and TEIN. In addition, technical issues, organizational matters, or simple questions can be answered by the Erdemnet team and enable further cooperation and coordination.

3) Increased outreach of Erdemnet and TEIN. The Erdemnet team has received numerous requests for connectivity from both public and private institutions.

4) Improved knowledge on using Erdemnet and TEIN network. Representatives of NRENs from Philippines, Korea and Japan demonstrated a range of real-life, practical applications.

5) Measurable results: Over 50 representatives of the education and research organizations participated in the launch event; the presentations about the TEIN, Erdemnet and benefits were delivered to the top management of the Mongolian university of science and technology and over 80 researchers of the Academy of Sciences; over 70 representatives of education and research organizations participated in the Knowledge sharing workshop; over 300 people visited ìErdemnet and TEINî booth at EDUTECH pavilion of the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia during the ìICT EXPO MINDGOLIA-2023.

For more information

Case Study of **Asi@Connect**