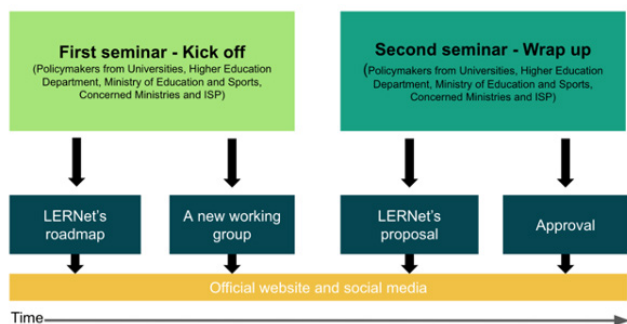


# Building awareness for establishing and strengthening the Lao Research and Education Network (LERNet)

## Background

Since 2003, the Lao Education and Research Network (LERNet) has been managed by the Information Technology Center (ITC) at the National University of Laos (NUOL). It was unofficially established as a cooperation hub connecting Lao education and research institutions, rather than being a dedicated national research and education network (NREN). LERNet is now on the road to becoming a fully-formed R&E network

This project aims to enhance and strengthen the visibility of LERNet among policymakers, as well as to the public, by organising a series of face to face and online seminars and presentations. Two seminars were held in late 2022 and early 2023 funded by LERNet and Ministry of Education and Sport. The first seminar highlighted LERNet activities over the years, had presentations from other NRENs and created a working group for developing LERNet's master proposal. The second seminar developed and reviewed the LERNet master proposal. This final proposal will be submitted to the government for establishing an official Lao NREN.



## Project Objectives

1. To build awareness of the necessity of a Lao NREN among policymakers and create a new consortium for collaboration.
2. To prepare the master proposal for LERNet establishment.
3. To establish a web and social media presence for interested parties to hear more about LERNet.

## Activities

### • Activity-1

Project Management/Administration (On-going)

### • Activity-2A

An initial ceremony (14 December 2022). - This was a meeting among the Ministry of Education and Sports policymakers. By having the Vice-minister of the Ministry of Education and Sports as the main stakeholder, it was decided that LERNET must be within the Ministry of Education and Sports, and b) that four universities, Lao National Internet Center, four private ISPs, and research centres within the Ministry of Education and Sports should join the next meeting (Activity 2B).



### • Activity-2B

This seminar on Research and Education Network in Laos and LERNet achievement- - This was held in late April 2023. Attending were policymakers from the Ministry of Education and Sports, plus the invited parties. This seminar agreed on the first road map and assigned the team to work on a master proposal to establish LERNET.



### · Activity-3

A second seminar on Development of Lao National Research and Education Network Master Proposal will take place August 2023 and will validate and discuss the master plan.

### · Activity-4

Creating Online channels to build public awareness (official website and social media) - Completed

## Challenges and overcoming the challenges

**Gathering related policymakers from different organisations in the seminar:** As we expected, the most challenging task was the selection of related policymakers and bringing them to the seminar. We overcame the issue by setting the seminar date ahead and informing them of the need to allocate time for the seminar.

**Finding guest speakers from other NRENs:** It was difficult to find NRENs that experienced similar situations, and who were best placed to help us. However at APAN55 in Nepal we invited three speakers from LEARN, BdREN and DrukREN who studied the needed assessment of NRENs. During the seminar, they have shown insightful information about their NRENs as well as recommend what LERNet must do to be successful.

## Impacts so far and Benefits to TEIN Community

- Related organisations including private ISPs, the departments of Ministry of Technology and communication and within the Ministry of Education and Sports are aware of the importance of NREN and they agree on supporting the establishment.
- LERNet has the working group consisting of the policymakers from the related organisations.
- The LERNet master plan develops and discusses during the second seminar.
- LERNet has its official logo, website and social media channel for the press release and the public awareness (<https://lernet.org/> , <https://www.facebook.com/laolernet/> )
- Promote and raise awareness of the TEIN network: During our seminars many topics about the TEIN network were shared to the audiences including the network's history, the benefits of becoming a member, the successful case studies, members and its services.
- Knowledge exchange among TEIN members: Guest participants and speakers who attended the seminars and shared their experience on how to manage their own organisations, what services are attractive to members as well as how to sustain and maintain the NREN's financial situation. This was appreciated by all attendees.

For more information

Asi@Connect : [www.tein.asia](http://www.tein.asia)

#### Disclaimer

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