



Asi@Connect

Newsletter

August. 2022

Targeted Call for Proposals



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Asi@Connect Case Studies

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Global Collaboration



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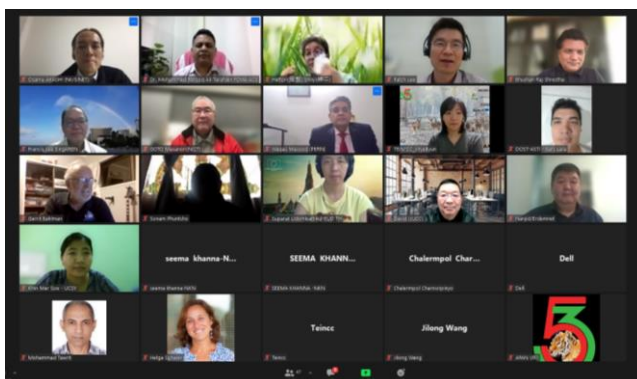
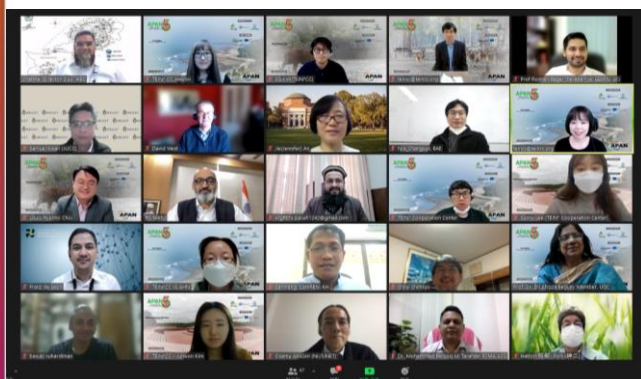
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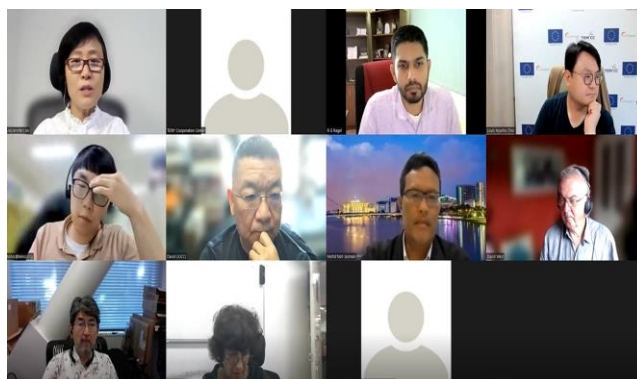
Governors' and Project Meetings

Asi@Connect Governors Meetings were held in March. Due to travel restriction, the Governors gathered via online meeting. The Governors got updated about Asi@Connect Project activities and network management, etc. The upcoming meeting, the 12th Asi@Connect Governors and Project Meeting will be held via online hosted by CERNET, China Education and Research Network.



Steering Committee Meetings

Asi@Connect Steering Committee Meetings were held total 7 times during the first half of this year. The Steering Committee Members provided advice and own times for Asi@Connect Project implementation. The Steering Committee Members dedicated to the overall process of the Targeted Calls plan. Also, various project agendas such as TEIN network management, and community activities have been discussed for the project. Thanks all Steering Committee Members.



Asi@Connect Call for Proposals

Overview

87

Sub-granted projects

Participating (~ Y2022)



over
13,000
Participants



over
24
Asian countries

1st call

52 proposals submitted

12 awarded

2nd call

64 proposals submitted

17 awarded

3rd call

55 proposals submitted

22 awarded

4rd call

157 proposals submitted

16 awarded

5th call

113 proposals submitted

20 awarded

Targeted Call for Proposals

TEIN*CC released Targeted Call for Proposals in July 2022 to award new sub-granted projects. As you can assume from its title "Targeted," this Call for Proposals is specifically designed to address the particular needs of the Asi@Connect beneficiary countries. What characterizes it from the traditional calls is that Targeted Call is based on NREN Needs Assessment (NNA) issued in 2021. By leveraging NNA assets, we anticipate that this Call will further help expand coverage of support for beneficiary countries. To date, the submission period ended in early August, and the evaluation process will be done in mid-September. The awarded sub-granted projects will implement their activities from October 2022 to July 2023 thereafter.



Submission by 17 Aug. 2022

Indicative Important Dates

- Evaluation of the proposal: 12 September
- Notification of award: 16 September
- Contract Signature: 30 September
- Implement Activities : 1 Oct. ~ 31 July 2023

Asi@Connect Webinar Series



The Second round of Asi@Connect Webinar Series successfully finished on 21 April. 2022. Around 70 R&E community members joined this webinar via Zoom platform and Facebook live streaming. This webinar opened its second topic with Environments based on TEIN network.

Among the 87 sub-granted projects under Asi@Connect project, three projects presented their activities and achievements during this event. Asi@Connect Webinar Series will meet our communities with every different topics and items during the year. Full recording is available: https://youtu.be/8Y_YdpO5HIo

Asi@Connect Case Studies



Collaborative projects were identified to profile in Case Studies, in order to illustrate the benefits of the Asi@Connect Project in non-technical and concrete terms, across sectors with high societal impact and relevance as well as with bridging digital divide to the Asia-Pacific region. They also aim to showcase how the project facilitates collaborative efforts on research and education and its advantages over the commodity Internet in terms

of cost-effectiveness, performance and accessibility. Case Studies cover an overview of a sub-granted project, activities implemented, challenges, impacts, and benefits to the TEIN community. This time 10 projects were selected and profiled as Case Studies among sub-granted projects that were recently successfully implemented. They will be shared at the 12th Asi@Connect Governors' Meeting and posted on the Asi@Connect website.

Global Collaboration

TNC22



After two years global pandemic, one of the biggest R&E Network conference TNC22 was took place in Trieste, Italy during 13-17 June 2022, with theme of 'Navigating Unexplored'.

TNC22 was an opportunity to reflect on how

we will reconnect with each other, on ways to explore and manage our changed environment, and on how we can emerge stronger together (tnc22.geant.org).

TEIN*CC participated in various activities; Asi@Connect booths, digital posters, supporting Emerging NREN programs and numbers of meetings with global R&E network organizations. The event re-confirmed the power of R&E Network communities.



About TNC

The largest and most prestigious research and education networking conference, TNC attracts a truly diverse audience of over 800 participants from more than 70 countries, representing national and regional research and education networks, schools and universities, technology providers, and many of the world's most exciting scientific projects. By bringing together decision-makers, networking and security specialists, identity and access management experts, researchers, academics and students, TNC offers a unique collaborative experience.

TNC22 Emerging NREN program interview

TNC 2022

June 13- 17, 2022

Trieste Convention Center, Trieste

Participant Name: Waqas Masood

**Organization: Pakistan Education & Research Network (PERN)
 Higher Education Commission, Pakistan**

Position: Assistant Director (Communication)



1. Overview of Conference:

The TNC, is GÉANT's flagship event, and the largest and most prestigious Research & Education networking conference. The TNC conference is a yearly conference co-funded by the European Union via GÉANT whereas GÉANT is the collaboration of European National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) that delivers an information ecosystem of infrastructure and services to advance research, education, and innovation on a global scale in collaboration with the European NRENs. PERN being member of the Trans Eurasia Information Network (TEIN), i.e., the regional NREN (National Research & Education Network) of the Asia, is also connected GEANT.

The yearly TNC conference attracts a truly diverse audience of over 800 participants from more than 70 countries, representing national and regional research and education networks, schools and universities, technology providers, and many of the world's most exciting scientific projects. This year the TNC 2022 Conference was scheduled on 13 – 17 June 2022 in Trieste, Italy hosted by GARR (Italian R&E network). In addition to the regular TNC Event, GÉANT has initiated a programme called Emerging NREN Programme that is aimed at helping the developing NRENs of the world to come to TNC, learn, collaborate, and help in excel their NRENs back at home.

I participated in the Emerging NREN Programme after TEIN*CC shortlisted my CV once PERN sent my nomination to TEIN*CC for participation in the Emerging NREN Programme on behalf of PERN. During the ENP22, I participated in the full TNC22 programme and was paired with Mian Usman – Lead Network Architect at GÉANT. The pairing was very useful as it helped me with introductions within GEANT as well as with major stakeholders of the European NREN community alongside with the members from ASREN, NSRC, Internet2 etc.

The GEANT CEO on closing plenary launched the EC-funded GN4-3N Project, the aim of this project can be summarized as its separate internet, just for research and education users. It was inspiring to see that how the GEANT in collaboration with the European NRENs has worked tirelessly to deliver enhanced fiber coverage for European NRENs besides providing capacity for increased data traffic. The project will provide improved performance, increased flexibility, and reduced expense alongside long-term platform stability. The demonstration was knowledgeable and the Asian NRENs need to work on the same lines to facilitate their regional community.

2. What was the motivation to attend TNC?

TNC itself was a source of inspiration for me being one of the largest research and education networking conference. Previously, I have attended some of the Asia Pacific Advanced Network meetings and was able to collaborate with likeminded peers, resulting in increased PERN participation in R&E activities. Through this emerging NREN programme during TNC 2022, I got a chance to interact with the people from global

NREN hub, including GEANT and other European NRENs like GARR, Renator, SWITCH etc. these interactions help me to learn from the experiences of community and about the latest advancements in NREN service delivery. The participation broadened my vision and now I am keen to find out ways for implementing those key aspects in our NREN setup including, identity federation, cloud services, NREN security Management, Public Affairs/ marketing for NRENs etc.

3. Any specific activities or engagement in the Conference?

I have engaged with GARR cloud providers and trying to connect the PERN cloud lead with GARR so that PERN cloud solution gets fine-tuned through the knowledge and experiences of GARR. Experience and Benefits from the Conference. The TNC conference besides giving me fruitful knowledge helped me to enhance my connections with the NREN community. The conference also helped me to understand that how the developed NRENs are operating and what improvements can help the emerging NRENs take the lead in particular areas.

4. What Sessions Did I Find Most Valuable?

The overall TNC Experience was full of new learnings, experiences to guide through out career. Some sessions grabbed my attention include,

- Network Evolution was interesting as it helped me to think beyond horizon that how NRENs must continue planning for ever-growing demands for increasing data transfers inter and intra NRENs.
- The session of perfSONAR was also valuable and I have asked the NOC engineers at PERN to continuously get the PERN services monitored through perfSONAR and ensure visibility in this important tool used by almost by every NREN. Further, how PERN can contribute to development and research of global open-source tools of this nature and contribute to the community.
- Another session, NRENs, GÉANT and the UN Sustainable Development Goals helped me to understand the alignment of NREN goals with the global targets including the UN SDGs and how achieving different goals under different expansion and development projects can deliver best services to the community besides making PERN well performing NREN at global level.

5. Any recommendation for 'Emerging NREN Programme of TNC?

The Emerging NREN Programme in TNC is an amazing programme, however, the representation of the APAN community may be enhanced to same programme or any other new similar initiative so that the Asia Europe collaborations may excel.

6. Overall Summary of Conference Experience

The conference was very well planned and executed to perfection. The programme was blended with different social activities along with the lunch and refreshments helped to keep the audience glued to the conference for five consecutive days.



APAN Collaborations

Even though we were unable to meet physically due to the pandemic, the R&E communities continued to collaborate and communicate together via virtual conference, APAN53 during 7-11 March 2022. Asi@Connect partners also presented in various meetings

and sessions sharing on-going activities that have driven more wider community's attention to the project. Both of TEIN*CC and APAN showed a great partnership in these limited circumstances. In the upcoming APAN54 conference, this close friendship will continue in various sessions and collaborative activities.

