

Strengthen the Asi@Connect Female Network Engineer: Capacity Development Program for NREN TechGirl and Future IT-Girl

BACKGROUND

Over the past ten years the NRENs in the Asian region have developed greatly. However, the majority of network engineers and other IT personnel working in university/research networks are males, with very few females being employed. This project aims to support female career development in the IT area.

OBJECTIVES

- **Collaboration with TEIN partner countries:** This project principally focuses on fifteen beneficiary countries: Afghanistan (AF), Bangladesh (BD), Bhutan (BT), Cambodia (KH), India (IN), Indonesia (ID), Laos (LA), Myanmar (MM), Malaysia(MY), Nepal (NP), Pakistan(PK), Philippines (PH), Sri Lanka (LK), Thailand (TH), and Vietnam (VN).
- **Statistical analysis for female IT personnel in NRENs/Universities**
- **Transfer of knowledge via workshops and webinars**
- **Linkage with existing Asi@Connect projects** e.g., distance education
- **Use the TEIN network for course delivery**
- **Enhancement of female collaboration and support:** To formulate a strong local as well as international female IT community (including existing IT personnel and Future IT girl), so that it will act as a strong female network community platform in TEIN partner countries.
- **Female empowerment and employment:** To enhance the capacity of existing female personnel

and encourage female graduates/appeared graduates to involve in network sector.

ACTIVITIES

Activity

Survey on Female Network/IT Engineers under Asi@Connect NRENs: We received 129 responses (University (100), REN(6), College (14), Ministry (1), Hospital (1), Research(4), Others(3)) from 15 beneficiary countries where the ratio of ICT Employee & Total Employee is 5% and the ratio of Female ICT Employee & Total ICT Employee is 23%. We also designed and implemented a communication repository of the NRENs' member organizations.



Activity

Submit the survey result in the 49th APAN Meeting: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, 49th APAN, Nepal was switched in virtual mode. We therefore submitted the report virtually.

Activity

Providing TechGirl/Future IT-Girl Fellowships (Registration fees) to attend workshop: There were 85 TechGirl/Future IT-Girl fellowships for participating APAN, APNIC, BdNOG, BtNOG, SANOG and CCNA academic courses.

We distributed nine fellowships at BdNOG 11 which was held in January 2020 at Long Beach Hotel, Cox's

Bazar, Bangladesh. Unfortunately, the remaining 76 fellowships were lapsed because the targeted events were held in virtual mode due to COVID-19 pandemic.



BdNOG11 group photo

Activity

Online webinar course for Asi@Connect Female Network Engineers. Remote participation from all Asi@Connect NREN countries: Five webinar courses (Basic Campus Network Design, Routing and Switching: IPv4/IPv6, Network Monitoring and Management, Network Security and Wireless network Design) were conducted for TechGirl/Future IT-Girl. These were delivered remotely via under the 2nd call Asi@Connect project of WP-5: "Facilitating Distance Learning using Digital Conferencing Facility". Over 600 women attended these courses and 141 passed their certification.

Activity

Strengthen Asi@Connect Future IT-Girl: Local Workshop on "Networking Basics, Routing and Switching": In order to motivate and enhance the capacity of the future IT-Girls, three local workshops (3-days) were arranged at three divisional cities (Barishal, Khulna and Rajshahi) in Bangladesh. In these 3 workshops, participants studied computer networking, career opportunities in computer networking and a wide range of related topics.



NBRS-1 (Barishal) Social Dinner



NBRS-3 (Rajshahi) Opening Ceremony

ASI@CONNECT SUPPORT

Asi@Connect supported the full financing of the project plus associated logistics

BENEFITS TO TEIN COMMUNITY

Mitigation of gender issues and female empowerment.

- Technical knowledge exchange among TEIN beneficiary female community.
- Reduce barrier for developing the capacity of females.
- Dissemination of knowledge through webinar program among TEIN beneficiary countries.
- Reduction of digital divide within NRENs female community.

For more information

Asi@Connect: www.tein.asia

Disclaimer

This work has been produced with the financial of the European Union for the Asi@connect project under Grant Contract ACA 2016/376-562. The contents for this document are the sole responsibility of TEIN²CC and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.



Co-funded by
the European Union