



FACILITATING DISTANCE LEARNING USING DIGITAL CONFERENCING FACILITY

BACKGROUND

This project principally focused on six countries – (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand). The objective of the project was to establish a distance learning education service that can be used by students, faculties, researchers and academics across the TEIN community. At the same time, experts from different NREN communities were encouraged to participate in Digital Seminars (DigiNars) and Digital Talk-show Programs using this facility which provided additional benefits. This project was very successful in transferring knowledge among a wide range of countries which were at different levels in terms of their expertise.



OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project were as follows:

- Deploy a Digital Conferencing Platform
- Transfer of Knowledge
- Enhancement of Collaboration among NRENs
- Reducing the Digital Divide
- Facilitate Distance Learning Courses
- Create Trainers through Train-The-Trainer programs
- Arrange Training Program for Professionals
- Enhance the utilization of TEIN

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Three DigiNars were delivered on topics such as “Competitive Edge of NRENs and Financial Sustainability”, “Progress and Challenges in Introducing Eduroam and Federated Identity under Asi@Connect/GEANT” and “Challenges at the outbreak of COVID-19 and the initiatives taken by NRENs”. Representatives from various NRENs across the world joined these seminars and shared their experiences.

Six courses were delivered on topics that included 1) Cyber Security, 2) Ethical Hacking, 3) Practical Cryptography, 4) Introduction to Big Data and Hadoop, 5) Data Center Virtualization and Cloud Computing Infrastructure, and 6) Advanced Data Analysis. Instructors were chosen from across the region depending on their expertise.

Two sessions were organized on Versatility of Blockchain Technology and Selection of LMS and Video Collaboration Applications. A summary of the latter one containing recommendations for NRENs has been prepared and published.

Moreover, a number of training programs and seminars were organised to promote the benefits of the distance learning technology and its usage.

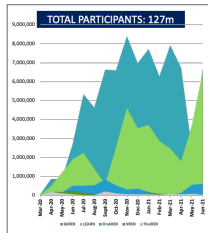
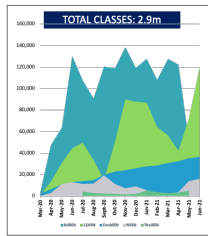
STANDOUT ACHIEVEMENT

The arrival of the Covid pandemic, and the resulting closure of many institutions created the opportunity for NRENs to offer available Zoom licenses under the project for conducting online classes. It was a

bleasing in disguise for the community which welcomed the offer gleefully. The usage surged within a couple of months as demonstrated in the figure over the page.

A total 2.9 million classes were conducted by five of the beneficiary countries during a period from March 2020 to June 2021 with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka being the biggest users.

Total participants in the online classes were an incredible 127 million during the period (March 2020 – June 2021) where again the major contributors were Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Notably, this is the first time NRENs of beneficiary countries could offer services which were badly needed by their member institutions. These services were delivered quickly and at “free of cost”. NRENs proved their worth to members and earned a significant level of acceptance from member institutes.



arranged under Digital Seminars and Digital Talk-shows.

- A number of DLE courses, Train-the-Trainer programs, Train-the-Trainee programs and Training on LMS Configuration were organized participated by students, professionals and NREN Engineers across the Asia-Pacific Community.

IMPACTS

- 18 NREN representatives received training during the kickoff meeting in Bangkok.
- 18 NREN Engineers received training during the TTT-1 workshop in Sri Lanka and 15 NREN Engineers received training under TTT-2 workshop in Nepal.
- 2678 people participated in the capacity development programs under six (6) DLE courses.
- In total 128 participants took part in Diginar-1, Diginar-2 and Diginar-3 programs.
- 135 people took part in Train the Trainer programmes
- 241 attendees participated in two Digital Talk shows.

ASI@CONNECT SUPPORT

- Asi@Connect financed the project.
- Asi@Connect connected us with NORDUNet which provided licensing, technical assistance and the Zoom platform.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Further information is available at the In the Field blog and on the Asi@Connect website

Web Portal: <https://dle.asiaconnect.bdren.net.bd>

OTHER

- Installation of Zoom on-prem version resulted in an enhanced quality of service [minimize delay and jitter] that avoided the use of expensive internet bandwidth.
- Procurement of equipment for beneficiaries gave ownership of the end-devices to the beneficiary NRENs.
- Awareness and Knowledge sharing programs were

For more information

Asi@Connect : www.tein.asia

Disclaimer

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