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The Asia Open RAN Academy Newsletter

October 2022

With nearly 8 billion people on the planet utilizing close to 15 billion mobile devices, interconnectivity is here to stay. But the question remains, *how do we continue expanding network services into greenfields while ensuring they are accessible and affordable?* The Asia Open RAN Academy aims to support this movement by providing quality and opportunities for hands on learning for the next generation of engineers. However, many questions are raised on the process of opening up networks and how this will impact services, quality, and security. In this month's e-newsletter we will hear from Dr. Franz de Leon, Director at the Philippine's Department of Science & Technology (DICT) Advance Science & Technology Institute (ASTI) and AORA's Interim Chair. We will explore the case for open RAN standards and certification, discuss the costs of open RAN and how they impact what type of open network approach to utilize, and highlight an important use case taking off in America that the Academy and partners can learn from. As always, we will include the registration link for our weekly Knowledge Sharing Sessions (KNOWSS).

Introducing

A Discussion with Dr. Franz de Leon

What Dr. de Leon views as the the most intriguing aspect of open RAN and how to shift public and government perception to challenge the status quo on internet connectivity as well as a vision for improved strategic collaboration with USAID. Dr. de Leon said, "The bringing together of so many players in the industry and the potential to drastically change the connectivity environment through broad collaboration and R&D with USAID, AORA, and additional partners is exciting for us – here at DOST-ASTI".

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A Case for Open RAN Standards and Certification

What's in it for the consumer? Is the question posed by AORA's newest board member Maricor Akol when discussing standardization and certification for open RAN. With the emergence of new technologies, consumers need to be assured they are receiving quality products and services. Standards support quality assurance processes and certification helps ensure the workforce is sufficiently skilled to follow and maintain standards. As the Founding President of the [Philippine National IT Standards (PhilNITS) Foundation](#) Maricor has firsthand understanding of just how much standards and certification can pay a role in boosting company credibility and increasing employment opportunities for engineers, "We are adopting Japanese standards to ensure our engineers are up to par with Japanese engineers, allowing them to be paid and be provided the same benefits as the Japanese. These companies can then boast how many level 1, 2, or 3 certified engineers they have. This increases the value of the company by having a credible workforce" said Maricor in a recent interview. How could this potentially relate to the open RAN industry? Click the link below to read more from AORA partners the Philippine National IT Standards (PhilNITS) Foundation and SMART Communications.

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Find out more

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Open RAN

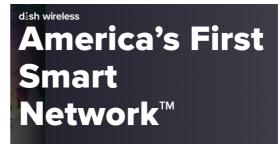## Reducing Costs for Vendors and Consumers

Legacy networks have been deployed at a huge cost to vendors and ultimately consumers. Proprietary solutions make it difficult to open the ecosystem. Open RAN will reshape the RAN industry and lead to more economical, intelligent, open, and virtualized options for the industry. These networks will be fully interoperable mobile networks despite the increased number of vendors and systems integrators. Dilina Crish from Mavenir recently spoke to the AORA team on how to bring capex down and how open RAN approaches ultimately benefit consumers.

Full story here

AORA on the International Level

AORA partner SMART Communications recently participated in the [Next Generation Mobile Networks Alliance (NGMN)](#) 2022 Industry Conference and Forum. SMART is part of an elite team leading the NGMN Disaggregation project [Operating Disaggregated Networks (ODiN)](#), of which Open RAN is a key subject. "During our presentation as part of the member discussion sessions, we highlighted how we are supporting ODiN and disaggregation more broadly in the Philippines. Our collaboration with AORA and the work the Academy is gearing up to do in this area is very relevant to our current ODiN efforts. It was a

DISH - Opening American Connectivity

For over 30 years DISH Network Corporation has been a disruptive force in the connectivity market – driving innovation and value on behalf of consumers. Charlie Ergen, the Chairman and Co-Founder of DISH Network, has continued to push boundaries and strive forward into the unknown of technology following the realization that satellite TV business would eventually go into decline. Ergen has since pulled together a tremendous team and forged solid alliances with the likes of [Samsung](#) and [Mavenir](#) to bring [DISH's new 5G open network](#) to more than 20% of the US population – achieved within just 14 months; and now commercially available across more than 120 markets with

good opportunity to promote the academy and our collaboration. From there we were able to have deeper conversations with other MNOs during the conference on the Filipino open RAN deployment effort." Lennart Olaivar – SMART Communications. Arvin Siena – Vice President & Head of SMART's Technology Strategy and Transformation Office spoke further with [Telecom TV](#) during the event.

customers able to purchase the DISH service and phones across the US. The key has been in separating software from hardware in order to 'open up' the ecosystem. The DISH team has taken the open approach with the network running on fully-virtualized – and typically containerized – software deployed via the cloud across its network platform - no longer constrained by traditional, vertically-integrated systems where software is anchored to the hardware.

DISH provides an example of the swiftness that can be achieved when opening up traditional networks – ultimately providing widespread and affordable connectivity.

KNOWSS Weekly Webinars

November 2022

The Power of Open RAN: 5G and Beyond
Presenter: Richard Matias, TerraHertz CEO
Date: November 5 at 6pm PST

Security in Open RAN
Presenter: Raymond Nunez, UP Professor & Red Rock Security's Forensic Director
Date: November 12 at 6pm PST

Peering Perspective
Presenter: Achie Atienza, Interconnection & Strategy – IP Ecosystem at Globe Telecom
Date: November 19 at 6pm PST

Please note the November 26 session will be confirmed closer to the date.

The Academy's Knowledge Sharing Sessions have been happening weekly since July and feature a wide variety of topics on O-RAN with presentations from key thought leaders in the industry.

The sessions have been popular with engineers and students alike.

Register Here

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