Asia Open RAN Academy Newsletter

September 2022

Welcome to the Asia Open RAN Academy Newsletter. Tremendous work has been done by our team in bringing together key industry thought leaders and establishing the Academy. Moving forward we are building momentum and solidifying partnerships. We look forward to continuing on this journey together.

Supporting Connectivity and Digital Inclusion in the Indo-Pacific

USAID and the Academy

The Asia Open RAN Academy is a joint USAID/Asia Bureau and USAID/DDI Bureau activity that contributes to USAID's International Open RAN initiative by addressing the workforce development gap in the Indo-Pacific region. It is being implemented under USAID's Indo-Pacific Opportunities Program (IPOP); a 4-year $34 million

dollar activity designed to address economic objectives under the Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS). The Asia Open RAN Academy is a model emphasizing a multi-stakeholder approach where governments have a voice matched with a strong role for industry, academics, researchers, and civil society representatives.

The Academy

The Asia Open RAN Academy aims to educate the next generation of engineers, enabling them to acquire skills that will increase their employment and salary options by providing them access to course content, technical experts, certification, and an interoperability lab. As the world moves rapidly towards the implementation of next generation technologies, like the Internet of Things (IoT), it is crucial to explore open, interoperable, reliable, and secure networks approaches. Building capacity in open RAN approaches will ensure a strategic shift in the telecommunications industry towards modular, interoperable, open standards and interfaces for hardware and software which, in turn, will spur innovation. The Academy was launched via a virtual Symposium in June 2022. It is an alliance of academic, government, and industry stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region, and beyond, who share common objectives to advance open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet and vibrant digital economies through increased cooperation, competition, choice, and support expansion of open RAN deployment capacity across the Indo-Pacific region through the implementation of an open RANcurriculum.

Learn More Here

Deep Dive into the Curriculum

The academy is proud to unveil its open RAN curriculum for the Indo Pacific. Our curriculum builds on solutions and standards offered by the Open RAN movement's key industry groups: the Telecom Infra Project (TIP) and the O-RAN Alliance.

The curriculum was produced via co-creation involving over a hundred interviews with academics, technologists, MNOs, and manufactures. The curriculum consists of a core of specific, technical courses, plus foundational courses that help learners appreciate the broader context and path ahead.

Meet the Interim-Governing Board

The interim Governing Board consists of thought leaders who were active in shaping the agenda for the June 2022 Academy Symposium and as speakers at the Symposium they presented significant ideas for advancing Open RAN in the Indo-Pacific region. Following the Symposium, they volunteered to serve as the inaugural Governing Board Members to manage the Academy's formalization process in the Philippines.

Dr. Franz de Leon

Dr. Franz de Leon assumed leadership to convene the Aisa Open RAN Academy Governing Board when he presented the draft strategic plan on May 24, 2022. Dr. de Leon is the Director of DOST-ASTI. DOST-ASTI is the Philippines government department mandated to spearhead various activities and initiatives including R&D projects in the advanced fields of ICT and Microelectronics, and long-term research to strengthen and modernize science and technology infrastructure. Dr. de Leon is also an associate professor from the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institute of the University of the Philippines Diliman. He holds a BS in Electronics and Communications Engineering and a MS in Electrical Engineering. He earned his Ph.D. in Electronic and Electrical Engineering at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom in 2014. "During these challenging times, there is need for solutions and applications that will uplift our spirits and help us adjust to the new normal. I want to ensure Filipinos enjoy the benefits of innovative solutions in the field of ICT, Microelectronics, and Space Technology." Dr. de Leon.

Dr. Jaybie de Guzman

Dr. Jaybie de Guzman, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor at the University of

the Philippines: Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institute – Diliman. Dr. de Guzman's Ph.D. was conducted at the University of New South Wales (Sydney) on Security and Privacy for Future and Arising Technologies, including the IoT, wearables, and mixed reality. He has extensive experience in the areas of communication and computer networks. Dr. de Guzman has co-authored several papers including *"Development of a handshake system for TV white space application based on OFDM"*, *"Characterization of power line communications using FSK for home applications"*, *"Social graph-based partitioning and distribution for OSN content caching and proactive delivery"*, and *"Improving the performance of content delivery networks through social partitioning"*. He continues to be active and influential regionally attending conferences in Bangkok, Macau, Kuala Lumper, and beyond.

Mr. Arvin Sienna

Arvin Sienna is the VP and Head of Technology Strategy and Transformation Office at PLDT-Smart and has been a part of the company for nearly 15 years. PLDT, Inc. is the leading telecommunications and digital services provider in the Philippines. Through its principal business groups – fixed line, wireless and others – PLDT offers a wide range of telecommunications and digital services across the Philippines' most extensive fiber optic backbone, and fixed line and cellular networks. His prior designations at PLDT include VP and Head of Core Network Planning Engineering and Integration (Fixed and Wireless), VP and Head of Transport Planning and Engineering (Fixed and Wireless), AVP and Head of Access Planning and Engineering (Fixed Network), and AVP and Head of

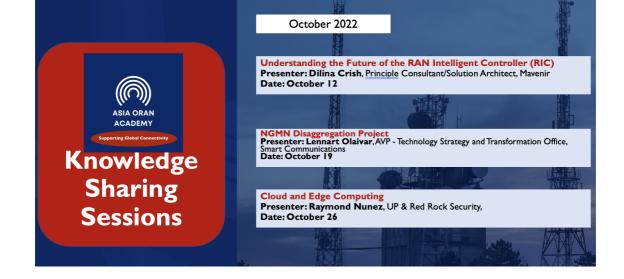# Memorandum of Understanding with the Telecom Infra Project

USAID signed an MOU with the Telecom Infra Project in a move to provide continued support to internet connectivity in the Indo-Pacific - establishing an alliance based on shared goals and objectives to promote the proliferation and adoption of open network architectures in the international telecommunications sector while encouraging increased supplier diversity and open, secure, interoperable, and reliable digital ecosystems. Together - USAID and TIP - are committed to advancing digital and economic growth while advancing deployment of commercially viable solutions – building a local talent pool and fostering robust and diverse telecoms ecosystems, including start-up economies across the region.

Institutionalizing a multi-stakeholder regional approach to advance strategic digital development goals and vibrant digital ecosystems requires collaboration, co-creation, and co-governance. This MoU is an important step in that direction; a model for public-private partnership that is designed for long-term success, replicability, scale, and effectiveness in opening up the telecommunications infrastructure market and promoting open, secure, interoperable, and reliable telecommunications networks in partner countries by encouraging supplier diversity, with the aim to inspire additional public-private sector projects globally.

KNOWSS Weekly Webinars

Understanding the Future of the RAN Intelligent Controller (RIC)
Presenter: Dilina Crish, <u>Principle</u> Consultant/Solution Architect, Mavenir
Date: October 12

NGMN Disaggregation Project
Presenter: Lennart Olaivar, AVP - Technology Strategy and Transformation Office, Smart Communications
Date: October 19

Cloud and Edge Computing
Presenter: Raymond Nunez, UP & Red Rock Security,
Date: October 26

The Academy's AORA Knowledge Session Series have been happening every Wednesday 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

International Development Group

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