



The Asia Open RAN Academy Newsletter

November 2022



As USAID accelerates its efforts in the Philippines to support open RAN adoption and education through the Asia Open RAN Academy, the team continues to foster relationships and seek partnerships with leading academic institutions and mobile network operators in the region to support the cause. The Philippines is a leader in technology adoption across the Indo-Pacific region but is not without its own challenges in ensuring widespread connectivity.

This month we take a look at some of these challenges, potential educational incorporation pathways, and the Internet of Medical Things.

Why should I study open RAN?

As open RAN continues to evolve and testing and deployment increases globally, it is only right for new



engineers to question the realities of studying open RAN. This month the AORA team spoke with a Filipino IT veteran, Richard Matias.

Richard has had an impressive career working primarily internationally for Ericsson and as an independent consultant in Qatar, PNG, Myanmar and more. He is the founder of [Terra Hertz](#), a telecommunications community dedicated to educating Filipinos on the ins and outs of the telecom sector. He is also one of AORA's Course Content Creators and regular KNOWSS Presenter.

Thoughts from an ICT Veteran, Richard Matias

Open RAN and an Academic's Perspective

[Josyl Reyes](#) is a full-time faculty member at the University Santo Tomas in Manila. She is a researcher in the area of wireless communications technology and has been a strong advocate for the Asia Open RAN Academy. She recognizes the varying roles played by both academia and industry in bringing awareness and education to the public on new technologies. She shared her views on how she envisions open RAN being included in higher education curriculums and how the Asia Open RAN Academy can be a bridge between academic institutions and industry partners seeking to hire a skilled and educated workforce.

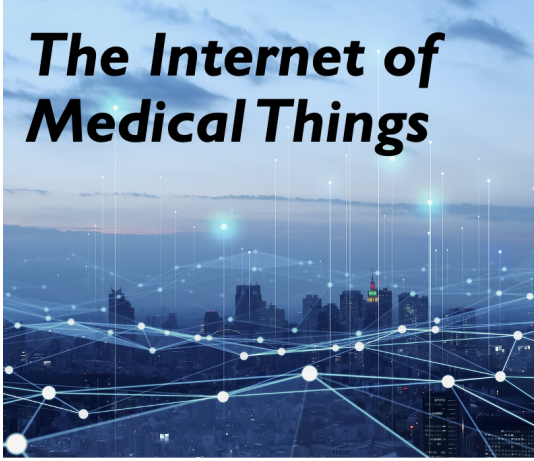


A discussion with Josyl Reyes

The IoMT and the Philippines Case

The medical industry has continually been at the forefront of cutting-

The Internet of Medical Things



edge technology adoption. However challenges are ever present as hospitals strive to achieve interoperability to improve patient services while maintaining high standards of care and privacy.

The medtech industry is shifting to improve interoperability between medical devices, making them more suitable to emerging needs and trends. Filipino Medical Doctor [Alvin](#)

[Marcelo](#), the current executive director of the [Asia eHealth Information Network](#), has high hopes for open RAN in supporting the [UP Manila Philippines General Hospital](#) with stepping into the new age of medical technology. He recently shared some of his thoughts and visions with the AORA team.

The Philippines and the IoMT

The Philippines and Network Readiness

[The Network Readiness Index](#) is one of the world's most comprehensive assessments of digital readiness, ranking 131 economies based on their performance across 58 variables. This year the Philippines rose 12 points globally - landing at 71.

However, challenges remain for the Philippines as they continue to work at improving connectivity across the country. So how does this relate to open RAN and the Academy? What opportunities are there to invest further into open RAN? How can USAID support these investments for the benefit of often overlooked communities, particularly those in greenfields?



Network Readiness Index 2022

The Philippines, Network Readiness, and Open RAN

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