

## TEIN2 BACKGROUNDER

### What is TEIN2?

TEIN2 is the second generation Trans-Eurasia Information Network, and is the first large-scale, dedicated research network for the Asia-Pacific region. Its purpose is to extend and encourage research and education IP connectivity, linking Asia-Pacific researchers to each other and to their counterparts in Europe. It does this via fast, direct links to Europe's multi-gigabit GÉANT2 network, providing the Asia-Pacific countries with a gateway for global research collaboration.

TEIN2 is a significant extension of the original Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) initiative, and is co-funded by €10 million from the European Commission. Through TEIN the first Europe-Asia link dedicated for research and education was established in December 2001, with a connection between RENATER in France and KISDI in South Korea. TEIN2 now extends this connectivity to ten countries in the region, and went live in January 2006. The countries participating are China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, whilst Australia and TransPAC2 are also actively participating.

With co-operative research now very much a global activity, it is vitally important for the Asia-Pacific region not to be excluded. TEIN2 extends the geographical reach of the network and promotes digital inclusion in Asia-Pacific. Some countries, such as Japan and Korea have highly developed research networks. Other networks, like those of Vietnam and Thailand are still in their infancy. TEIN2 promotes regional cohesion, creating more equal access to cutting-edge network resources. It acts as a catalyst by stimulating the development of research networking in the developing countries. In addition, many of today's global challenges require global collaboration to tackle issues such as climate change, avian influenza and HIV/AIDS. TEIN2 fully integrates Asian researchers into the Global Information Society.

### TEIN2 Facts

- Supports a community of more than 30 million users
- Regional connectivity extends from three network hubs in Beijing, Singapore and Hong Kong to connect ten countries across the Asia-Pacific region
- Direct links to GÉANT2 create a potential user base of more than 60 million
- Via GÉANT2, it enables world-class EU-Asian research collaboration
- Operates at speeds of up to 1Gbps
- Managed by research networking experts, DANTE

### TEIN2 success stories already include:

#### ▪ **Virtual lecture project**

The link-up has already enabled a virtual lecture project involving Malaysia, Japan and China. Students in each country are taught at the same time by a teacher from one of the countries, and the lecturers from Malaysia, Japan and China alternate.

#### ▪ **E-learning in medical training**

France and Cambodia have collaborated on a joint project on e-learning in medical training. Students in Cambodia are receiving teaching on medicine through the streaming of multimedia lectures and interactive video conferencing.

#### ▪ **Networking of national networks**

TEIN2 has already accelerated the networking of national networks in four countries. Malaysia is one of these, and has now created MYREN - linking together 12 universities.