

Brussels, 24 October 2008

ASEM Summit: EU and ASEM secure financing for high-speed internet link until 2011

Building on the success of the Trans-Eurasia Information Network 2 (TEIN2) research and education network the European Union (EU) and its partners today announced the launch date of its successor. The TEIN3 network will enable continued EU-Asia cooperation, directly benefiting researchers and the wider population. Funded by the EU with €12 million and an additional €6 million from Asian partners, the TEIN3 network will run until 2011. In comparison to its predecessor TEIN2, it will operate at a higher speed and across additional Asian countries. The official launch is foreseen for 8 December at the ASEM Workshop on ICT for Development in Vientiane, Laos.

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Union Commissioner for External Relations said: "TEIN2 has been an overwhelming success story, underpinning collaboration between leading researchers in Asia-Pacific, Europe and beyond. These collaborations have already directly benefited society as a whole in critical areas such as the fight against Malaria, forecasting and minimising the effects of extreme weather conditions and improving health through telemedicine. Thanks to our continued support and the links to the European GÉANT2 network we look forward to seeing its successor benefiting an even greater number of countries and citizens across both continents."

Commissioner for Information Society and Media Viviane Reding added: "Today's research community has to be truly global if it is to successfully address the major challenges we face across the world. Through the link between TEIN3 and GÉANT2, scientists and researchers in Asia-Pacific will not only be able to collaborate with their European peers but also to work with their colleagues in regional networks around the world, thanks to GÉANT2's global connectivity. This brings the best minds together, irrespective of location in order to benefit society as a whole."

The TEIN2 network has been a major ASEM success story. It currently connects 30 million users in 4,000 research and education institutions across 10 Asian countries with each other and their peers in Europe, via links to the high speed GÉANT2 network.

The network is being used for collaboration across a wide range of research projects ranging from radio astronomy to scientific collaboration. In addition, TEIN2 is being used for projects that directly impact society like telemedicine and surgical training across the region, remote medical consultations between Vietnam and Australia as well as forecasting of extreme weather conditions through collaboration between the Philippines and Germany.

TEIN3 will boost the capacity and footprint of research networking in Asia-Pacific. As well as providing higher capacity bandwidth at speeds of up to 2.5 Gbps for traffic it will be geographically broader, covering a greater number of Asian countries moving forward.

Background:

TEIN (Trans-Eurasia Information Network) – creates the first large-scale research and education network for the Asia-Pacific region. It connects regional researchers with their counterparts in Europe via GÉANT¹, the world's most advanced international research and education network, providing the Asia-Pacific countries with a gateway for global research collaboration. TEIN3, the latest generation of the network is set to receive €18 million of funding from the EU and Asian partners. The current Asian partners are China, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam; Australia is also actively participating.

First conceived in 2000 and now due to run until 2011, the TEIN3 project is contributing to the further development of the Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) initiative, to improve research networking between Europe and Asia-Pacific. Through TEIN, the first Europe-Asia link dedicated for research and education was established bilaterally between RENATER (Réseau national de télécommunications pour la technologie, l'enseignement et la recherche) in France and KISDI (Korea Information Society Development Institute) in South Korea, with the installation of a connection in December 2001.

For further Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/asia/regional-cooperation/infrastructure-networks/index_en.htm

¹ GÉANT is an advanced pan-European backbone network connecting National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) across Europe totalling more than 50,000km in length. It offers European academics and researchers high speed, private network connections to other research centres.