CONNECTING ICT IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND EUROPE

connect2SEA
Connecting ICT in Europe and South East Asia

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CONNECT2SEA at ICT-2015: Call for Applications
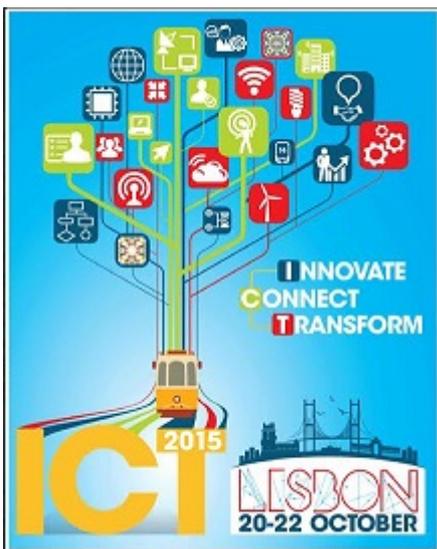
The CONNECT2SEA consortium will have a booth at the ICT2015- Innovate, Connect, Transform event in Lisbon, Portugal on October 21-22, 2015. Participants coming from the field of ICT research and innovation: engineers and researchers, industrial companies (including SMEs), investors, policy makers, as well as people contemplating a career in the ICT are expected to attend the said event.

The event will comprise the following parallel activities:

- A policy conference presenting the new Commission's policies and initiatives on Research and Innovation in ICT Horizon 2020 Programme;
- An interactive exhibition showcasing the best results and impact of most recent EU ICT Research and Innovation;
- Networking activities to enhance quality partnerships, help participants find partners, connect research and innovation and trigger collaboration;
- Funding opportunities: ICT 2015 will also be the place to gather information on the 2016-17 Work Programme of Horizon 2020.

In relation to the objectives of the event and the priorities of CONNECT2SEA to create strategic synergies in the ICT research, development and Innovation between Europe and South East Asia, the consortium is opening an opportunity for researchers both from EU and SEA to showcase different advanced research projects for display in its exhibition booth during the ICT2015 Conference.

European and South East Asian (SEA) R&D ICT team may communicate their interest to any of the CONNECT2SEA consortium members or by sending an

email to Dorota Pawlucka, pdm@tu-dortmund.de. The best three (3) applications will win travel costs coverage to Lisbon for one representative each. Application deadline is on July 20, 2015.

For more information on the call for applications, visit the CONNECT2SEA website. Registration to participate on the ICT2015 event is now open and can be accessed through its website.

EU-SEA Cyber Security Event Will Be Held in the Philippines, January 2016

CONNECT2SEA project will be organising a "Cyber Security Forum" on January 25, 2016 in the Philippines through its consortium members Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) and Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH), Institute of Computer Science.

The activity aims to assemble Asian and European researchers and ICT policy makers to discuss and exchange ideas and experiences on cybersecurity initiatives in their countries. Moreover, two (2) communities of practice (CoP) being organised by the CONNECT2SEA at present aims to take the lead on the discussions and workshop.

The forum will be co-located with the bi-annual Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) event which will be attended by at least 500 members coming from organisations of Research and Education Networks (RENs) in the countries/economies of Asia and Oceania. Other technical meetings such as Trans-Eurasia Network (TEIN), Pacific Rim Applications and Grade Middleware Assembly (PRAGMA) will also be held in conjunction with the event.

Interested participants and speakers from Europe and Southeast Asia may contact Ryne Amatorio at ryne@asti.dost.gov.ph or any of the CONNECT2SEA partners. Visit www.connect2sea.eu/news-and-events/events/details/CyberSecurityForum.html for more details.

CONNECT2SEA Positively Evaluated by Experts

September 15 to 16, 2014 in Crete, Greece, a plenary and advisory board meeting was held by the consortium discussing the outcomes of the project for the first nine (9) months.

The meeting was attended by seventeen (17) consortium members of the project and two (2) out of four (4) advisory members and experts, coming from the Association of South East Asian Nation, Commission on Science and Technology (ASEAN-COST) secretariat, as well as the International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and the Department International Technology Transfer (VDI/VDE Germany). The meeting focused on the strategic operational issues of the project implementation.

Topics discussed were beneath others the next steps for the CONNECT2SEA calls for proposal, the project's top-down initiatives and targeted actions, future activities of the consortium, and the creation of a road map which will focus on cyber security to be used for collaborative actions of EU and SEA. Presentations for the upcoming project review were also presented by the work package leaders and reviewed positively by the members and the advisers.

CONNECT2SEA Participated in the NESSI Event 2014

NESSI Members Day in conjunction with NESSI International Cooperation Day was held on November 20-21, 2014 at the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona. The objective of the event was to set-up a proposal development and consortium formation workshop in view of the H2020 calls closing in April 2015 with the aim of enhancing the collaboration between NESSI members and other ETP members and organisations from International Co-operation partner countries.

CONNECT2SEA consortium members presented the project initiatives, in particular the topic on *e-learning*, during the small group/consortia discussion. The WASABI, a real-time interactive web-based distance learning platform developed for School On Internet (SOI) Asia, was introduced by the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) for possible future innovation and project collaboration between EU and SEA researchers. Several participants from EU have expressed their interest. Meanwhile, discussions were documented by the CONNECT2SEA consortium members.

CONNECT2SEA Supported e-learning and HORIZON2020 Workshop

The Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) in cooperation with the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) conducted the *"Workshop on Real-Time Interactive Web-Based Distance Learning Environment for Europe-Southeast Asia - Japan"* last November 29, 2014 at the ASTI Training Room, Diliman, Quezon City Philippines.


A total of forty-nine (49) on-site attendees from Europe and South East Asia, three (3) remote attendees and seven (7) webstream visitors which represented a total

of twelve (12) countries, participated in the workshop and open dialogue. Among the activities held were the exposure of the participants to the current web architecture-based distance learning environment, WASABI, and future of big data analysis in understanding students' behaviour in a virtual classroom.

Guest speaker, *Dr. Nikitas Kastis* of MENON Network provided an outlook regarding the future of ICT in education. Representative from Ideal-ist network, *Ms. Malgorzata Szolucha* discussed the Ideal-ist objectives as well as how it can provide assistance to researchers for the Horizon 2020 calls.

The event ended with a session where participants provided their feedback regarding potential collaborative research topics and work packages for Web Architecture for SOI Asia Broadband Infrastructure project. The two guest speakers on the other hand provided their feedback on how SEA and Japan participants can collaborate with European organisation in order to prepare a winning proposal for Horizon 2020.
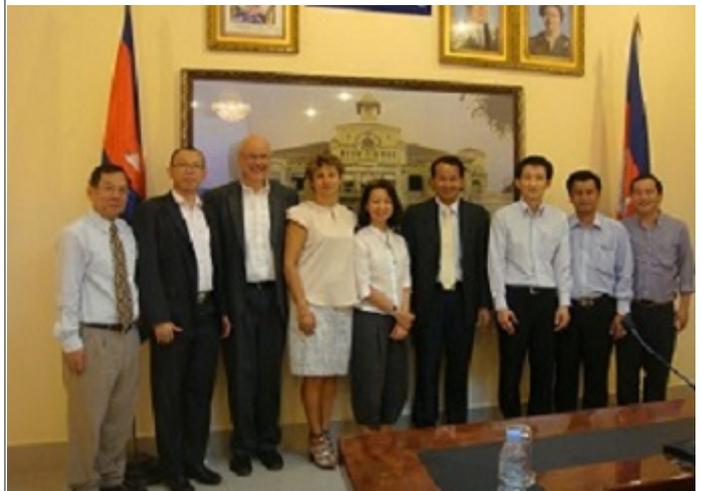
CONNECT2SEA Delegation Visited Cambodia

The CONNECT2SEA consortium organised a delegation visit to Cambodia on March 4-6, 2015, with the goal to discuss with policy makers of government organisation responsible for ICT and researchers of universities in ICT. The discussions focused on Cambodia's priorities of ICT-related policies including the research and development.

The aim of this visit was to identify needs where the international ICT R&D and/or policy collaboration could contribute, and to explore the interests and possibilities for Cambodian organisations to involve in upcoming activities of the CONNECT2SEA project. Four CONNECT2SEA partners, from both Europe and South East Asia, participated in this delegation visit. The entire programme of the delegation visit in Cambodia was organised by *Dr. Chan Roath*, Director of the Department of Scientific Research, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, and President of the Cambodian Mathematical Society, with the support of National Institute of Posts Telecommunications (NIPTICT). Several major policy makers took part in the meetings, namely *H.E Noy Shoung*, Secretary of State and Adviser to the Secretariat General of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, *H.E. CHUN Vat*, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, and many others.

CONNECT2SEA Session in Thailand on EU-SEA Collaboration and H2020 Funding Opportunities

Svetlana Klessova, CONNECT2SEA project coordinator, presented the project in Pattaya, Thailand on March 20, 2015 and the support offered by CONNECT2SEA for researchers from South-East Asia. Prof. Sebastian Engell, TU Dortmund, Germany, gave an overview of the funding opportunities in the area of ICT that are offered by the EU under Horizon 2020. He also shared his experience about win-win situations in international collaborative research and development, particularly related to EU-funded projects.

It was concluded that the research cultures and the available support for research and development are very diverse between the ASEAN countries. In some countries there are well-established funding programs, including support for academia-industry collaboration, while in others, low salaries and lack of support make it very difficult for academic researchers to devote time to innovative research. While participation in successful project proposals that address EU calls for cooperative research projects is highly desirable, there was agreement that also more lightweight funding schemes are needed to help the faculty at universities to maintain their ties with the international research scene and to perform joint projects with industry or public bodies.

The CONNECT2SEA team integrated the feedback from of the panel discussion into a recommendation of a light grant scheme between the EU and SEA countries that was presented at the EU-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Days in Paris on March 17, 2015 to EU and SEA R&D policy makers.

Communities of Practice on Cyber Security and Big Data Value Between EU - SEA Stakeholders

CONNECT2SEA has created two e-communities of practice (eCoP) to bring European and South East Asian stakeholders closer together and provide a common platform for discussion, knowledge exchange and increased visibility of organisations and individuals from Europe to SEA and vice versa. The networking activities aim to enhance discussions and knowledge exchange as well as to explore research collaboration and business opportunities, and to trigger common projects under the umbrella of Horizon 2020 and other relevant funding programmes. The communities of practice are open to individual specialists from SMEs, large companies, universities and other research organisations, as well as policy makers from both regions. Specialists and policy makers who are interested to join the eCOP may participate on the current on-line discussions at the LinkedIn accounts Big Data Value, and Cyber Security.

Feedback from the Winners of the CONNECT2SEA "Small Grants"

CONNECT2SEA provided small grants to reimburse cost for travel, workshops, etc., to the selected ICT R&D teams from Europe and South East Asia intending to initiate and/or to broaden ICT R&D collaboration. Upon careful deliberation of the CONNECT2SEA call for proposals, twenty-one (21) out of fifty-five (55) applications have been selected seven (7) from South East Asia and fourteen (14) from Europe. A total of forty (40) organisation benefited from the selected proposals which focused on fifteen (15) events and six (6) travels for EU-SEA collaborations.

"The research visit supported by CONNECT2SEA was invaluable in reinforcing our existing research links between Strathclyde and the Centre for Quantum Technologies. Moreover, the experience has led to an expansion of our joint activities and a greater connection between the European research community in quantum space communication and Singapore's. Directly stemming from the visit, we hope to establish a multi-national consortium to aggressively pursue quantum space communication."

Dr. Daniel Oi,
Lecturer,
University of Strathclyde, UK

"The EU-SEA workshop on ICT applications for Smart, Low Carbon Cities: EU/SEA perspectives enabled existing and new EU-SEA partners to develop ideas and strategies aimed to drive forward our collaborative research efforts. This process of course takes time and diligence, but the EU-SEA funding enabled direct face-to-face meetings and dedicated team building time that are required to shape strong foundations for future consortium growth."

Dr. Sandra Dudley,
London South Bank University, UK

"This project helped us to understand the real needs of the sanitary systems of such different places like Italy and Vietnam in terms of technological innovation and communication facilities. It was possible to share knowledge, programs, and objectives. It is advisable that results and competencies that have been achieved in some place could be actually reused elsewhere."

Prof. Francesco Carlo Morabito,
Vice-Rector for Internationalisation,
University Mediterranea of Reggio Calabria, ITALY

"Our workshop provided an excellent (and unique!) opportunity for the EU participants to meet their Vietnamese colleagues, and to learn more about their challenges and opportunities (and vice versa). As a direct consequence of these personal, face-to-face encounters, new venues for collaboration have been established, including the co-supervision of PhD students and the participation in Master-level courses."

Manuel Clavel,
Associate Research Professor,
IMDEA Software Institute, SPAIN

"New digital technologies offer a powerful basis for tackling the converging challenges of food security and diet-related non-communicable diseases. On 4-7th November 2014 leading researchers from the European Union and South East Asia met in Khon Kaen Thailand to develop a research programme based on innovative large-scale ICT applications for food and diet-related health promotion with children and young people."

Mathew Jones,
Senior Lecturer Health, Community and Policy Studies,
University of the West of England

"When researchers meet they realised they have a lot in common and are happy to have opportunity, thanks to such cooperation project to save a lot time in exchanging experience, research results and solutions instead of duplicating efforts."

Philippe Cousin,
IoT European Research Cluster

"The EU-SEA collaboration enabled me to share my group's R&D activities on the IoT space, for which I received useful feedback from the other participants. I was also able to know the participants' experiences, which are relevant to my group's Smart City R&D activities. The sharing will help me to plan some of our Smart City R&D activities, such that they will have more impact to the various stakeholders."

Alvin Valera,
SINGAPORE S2R

"The Connect2Sea workshop on "the role of partner support in mobile-phone based (mHealth) interventions for chronic disease management" provided a useful forum for the discussion of a Horizon2020 proposal with partners from Singapore, Europe, and the US. The discussions led to a fruitful foundation for future international cooperation in the research field on mobile health."

Arul Chib,
Director of Singapore Internet Research Centre
Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information,
Nanyang Technological University, SINGAPORE

"Thanks to connect2SEA grant we've been able to set up SeMIPRo initiative that has allowed us to get insights on the SEA market and R&D activities and identify potential opportunities for EU companies and research centres. We've seen a lot of potential for investments in the IoT field as activities are moving in the same direction as in the EU."

Gerardo Glorioso,
Project Manager,
Advanticsys, SPAIN

"This workshop provided an excellent platform to meet leading scientists from both Europe and SEA in the field of optimizing control for industrial applications. New ideas for scientific research were developed that will foster new cooperation in science for improved industrial processes in Europe and SEA."

Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Hans Georg Bock,
Director of IWR – Interdisciplinary Center for Scientific Computing,
Heidelberg University, GERMANY

"We have had the opportunity to share experiences and to observe possible future cooperation between EU and SEA. It is necessary for us to work together to develop strong networking and to come up with research projects or activities with high impact to EU and SEA."

Paisan Kittisupakorn,
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, THAILAND

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Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI), Philippines

University Sains Malaysia (USM), Malaysia

The **CONNECT2SEA** consortium comprises ten organisations, five from the EU and five from SEA but targets the whole European Union and South East Asia Countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)