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Annex 3.1
Interim Narrative Report

- This report must be completed and signed by the contact person of the Coordinator.
- The information provided below must correspond to the financial information that appears in the financial report.
- Please expand the paragraphs as necessary.
- TEIN*CC will reject any incomplete or badly completed reports.
- The answer to all questions must cover the reporting period as specified in point 1.6.

Table of contents***List of acronyms used in the report*****1. Description**

1.1. Name of Coordinator of the contract:

Mohammad Tawrit

1.2. Name and title of the contact person:

Mohammad Tawrit, CEO, BdREN

1.3. Name of beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in the Project:

Principal Investigator:

Mohammad Tawrit, CEO, BdREN
Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN)

Co-Investigator:

Rene Buch, CEO, NORDUnet
NORDUNet

Beneficiary countries:

- Lanka Education and Research Network (LEARN)
- Nepal Research and Education Network (NREN)
- Philippine Research, Education and Government Information Network (PREGINET)
- DrukNet, Bhutan
- Thailand Research and Education Network (ThaiREN)

1.4. Title of the Project:

facilitating Distance Learning using Digital Conferencing facility (fDLuDCf)

1.5. Contract number:

Asi@Connect-18-068

1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period:

14/09/2018-30/04/2019

1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s):

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka

1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different) (including numbers of women and men):

- Network Engineers of NRENs of Beneficiary Countries
- Policy makers of NRENs of Beneficiary Countries
- Policy makers of other NRENs dispersed globally
- Faculty member and Researchers of Beneficiary Countries
- Students/Trainees of Beneficiary Countries

1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7):

2. Assessment of implementation of Project activities

2.1. Executive summary of the Project

Please give a global overview of the Project's implementation for the reporting period (no more than ½ page).

The proposal for implementation of "facilitating Distance Learning using Digital Conferencing facility" was prepared with a view to enabling the use of an advanced video conferencing service in the region, for ventures promoting distance learning and embracing a comprehensive knowledge sharing program through digital conferencing. In order to materialize these objectives altogether 14 activities were planned, out of which till April 30, 2019 3(three) activities have been completed as per plan and one is on-going. The completed activities are:

- Arranging Kick-off Workshop
- Installation of Zoom Platform
- Arrange TTT-1 Workshop

The major activity which has been still ongoing till end of reporting period was "Procurement of End Devices for Beneficiary NRENs". The End devices were supposed to be used for testing the platform. However, due to delay in procurement, project progress was not hampered as the Zoom Platform had been tested using hardware managed from separate sources.

To be mentioned that all preparations have been undertaken to hold the first DigiNar Program on "Competitive edge of NRENs and Financial Sustainability" slated for June 26 & July 03, 2019 and first Distance Learning Course on "Cyber Security" planned to be held from July 09 to August 03, 2019. The speakers for the DigiNar program have been managed from Asi@Connect, GEANTT and WACREN as planned which was an uphill task given the engagement of the resource persons in other priority activities. Similarly, University of Colombo School of Computing was assigned to take the course on "Cyber Security" and all

¹ "Target groups" are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the Project at the Project Purpose level, and "final beneficiaries" are those who will benefit from the Project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

arrangements have been completed.

As the supporting activities for the workshop have been successfully completed and trainers of participating NRENs have been trained to deal with the Zoom software and issues that might arise while DigiNars and DLCs will be on execution, hopefully the risks of successful completion of the same could be mitigated.

As a prelude to DigiNars and DLCs, a number of meetings and seminars had been arranged by the beneficiary countries which in one hand fulfilled the objectives of the project and on the other hand gave confidence to the beneficiary countries about the efficacy of the platform.

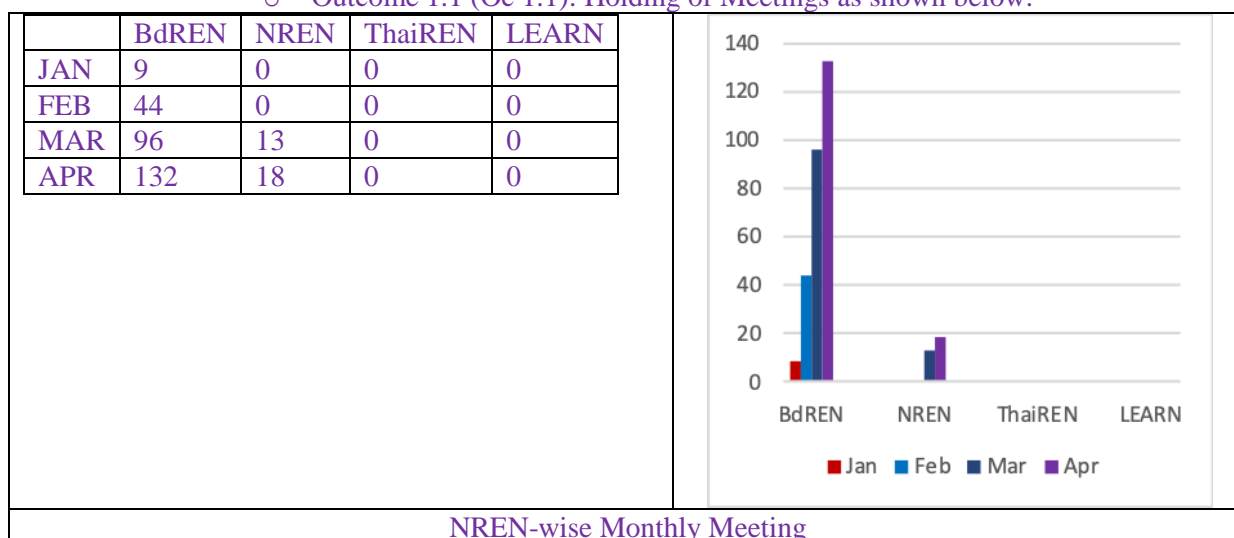
2.2. Results and Activities

A. RESULTS

What is your assessment of the results of the Project so far? Include observations on the performance and the achievement of deliverables, outputs, outcomes and impacts and whether the Project has had any unforeseen positive or negative results.

The result of the project is so far “Satisfactory”. The outcome of the project is as follows:

- Output 1 (Op 1): “Successful accomplishment of Kick-off Workshop” - Completed
 - Outcome 1.1 (Oc 1.1): “Scheduling the activities to be performed under this project and their probable venues”
 - Outcome 1.2 (Oc 1.2): “Agreement among beneficiary countries about the Specifications of the Test Devices”
 - Outcome 1.3 (Oc 1.3): “Fixing DigNar (Digital Seminar) Topics”
 - Outcome 1.4 (Oc 1.4): “Fixing Distance Learning Course (DLC) Topics and associated duration”
 - Outcome 1.5 (Oc 1.5): “Determining the specifications for the web portal”
- Output 2 (Op 2): “Creation of Credentials”
 - Outcome 1.1 (Oc 1.1): Holding of Meetings as shown below:



- Output 2 (Op 2): “Procurement of End Devices” – Ongoing
- Output 3 (Op 3): “Installation and Configuration of Zoom Platform” – Completed
 - i. Dismounting of Zoom Server, Switch and Firewalls from portable rack
 - ii. Mounting of Server, Switch and Firewalls in BdREN Data Center Rack
 - iii. Connecting the Platform with Data Center Core Switch
 - iv. Configuring Core Switch to provide Internet Connectivity
 - Outcome 3.1 (Oc 3.1)
 - i. Creation of Meetings/Webinars in BdREN Platform
- Output 4 (Op 4): “Recruitment of 2(two) Operational Staff”
 - Date of Accomplishment:
 - Outcome 4.1 (Oc 4.1): All project activities became dynamic
- Output 5 (Op 5): “Execution of Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Workshop”
 - Date of Accomplishment:
 - Outcome 5.1: Creating Trainers for providing support during DigiNar and DLCs

B. ACTIVITIES

B.1 Activity 1: “Kick-off Workshop”

Overview: The Kick-off Workshop on WP5-A@C Project entitled ‘Facilitating Distance Learning using Digital Conferencing Facility’ awarded to BdREN was held in Bangkok during 25-27 September 2018.

Venue: Bangkok, Thailand.**Date:** 25 September – 27 September, 2018**List of Participants:**▪ **Overseas Participants:**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation and Affiliation	Country
1.	Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain	Member, University Grants Commission	Bangladesh
2.	Mr. A K M Habibur Rahman	Chief Executive Officer, BdREN	Bangladesh
3.	Mr. Mohammad Tawrit	Chief Technical Officer, BdREN	Bangladesh
4.	Professor Dr. Harunur Rashid	Department of Fisheries Management, Bangladesh Agricultural University	
5.	Mr. Bhushan Raj Shrestha	Nepal Research and Education Network,	Nepal
6.	Mr. Chencho Tshering	College of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan	Bhutan
7.	Mr. A.L.Sayeth Saabith,	Director, Centre for Information Communication Technology (CICT), Senior Lecturer, Computer Science, Eastern University,	Sri Lanka
8.	Mr. Clarence Salting	University of the Philippines	Philippines

▪ **Local Participants:**

Sl. No.	Name	Affiliation	Country
1.	Dr. Chalermopol Charnsripinyo	ThaiREN	Thailand
2.	Mr. Sittichai Sangdee	ThaiREN	Thailand
4.	Prof. Dr. Panjai Tantatsanawong	ThaiREN	Thailand
5.	Mr. Sumnuan Hirunwong	ThaiREN	Thailand
6.	Mr. Nuttapat Hirunpong	ThaiREN	Thailand
7.	Mr. Wachira Chaowalit	ThaiREN	Thailand
8.	Mr. Sadit Sathianpaison	ThaiREN	Thailand
9.	Miss Piyanuch Prangmanee	ThaiREN	Thailand
10.	Miss Saowanee Juiritt	ThaiREN	Thailand
11.	Mr. Tawee Sribuddee	ThaiREN	Thailand

Instructor/Resource Person:

Sl. No.	Name	Affiliation	Country
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1.	Mr. Erik Kikkenborg	NORDUnet	Denmark
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▪ **Decisions made in the workshop:**

- Project Schedule: Project Schedule was finalized
- Selection of Venue for Workshops/Seminars: Venue for Workshops/Trainings were proposed and a few were finalized
- Selection of Topics for DigiNars: Probable Topics for DigiNars were finalized
- Selection of Topics for Distance Learning Courses (DLCs): Probable Topics for DLCs were finalized

B.2 Activity 2: “Installation of Zoom Platform”

Overview:

It was planned that NORDUNet will provide the hardware for the system which will be installed at the BdREN Data Center so that all DigiNars as well as Distance Learning Courses will be created inside BdREN Cloud to ensure reliable and high quality services as well as enhancement of TEIN Traffic. Media Services Manager from NORDUNet Erik Kikkenborg carried the setup by hand on his trip to Dhaka Bangladesh from 11-15 March, 2019. In addition to the installation of the platform during his visit different capacity development and awareness session were arranged. A few of them have been mentioned here.

Venue: Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Duration: 5 days

Schedule of Activities:

Date	Time	Activity Description	Personnel Involved
11/03/2019	08:00am	Landing of Kikkenborg in the morning at Dhaka International Airport and shifted to Hotel	Erik Kikkenborg Ibrahim Khandker
	02:00pm	Arrived at BdREN Office and handover the equipment	Erik Kikkenborg Mohammad Tawrit Md. Jahidul Islam Ibrahim Khandker
	02:00pm-08:00pm	Dismounting the Equipment from portable carrier and mounting of equipment at BdREN Data Center rack, cabling and connecting the servers with Core Switch	Md. Ariful Islam and his Team Members
12/03/2019	10:00am-11:00am	Meeting of Kikkenborg with BdREN high officials (Vice-Chairperson Prof. Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain)	Erik Kikkenborg Prof. Akhtar Hossain Mohammad Tawrit
	10:00am-01:00pm	Configuration of Core Switch and Firewall for providing access to NORDUNet Installer to	Md. Ariful Islam and his Team Members

		configure the appliance remotely	
	02:00pm-04:00pm	Installation of equipment along with configuration of servers continued	NORDUnet Team from Copenhagen, Denmark
13/03/2019	10:00am-01:00pm	Meeting and Discussion with BdREN officials about the facts and features of Zoom Platform	Erik Kikkenborg Md. Jahidul Islam Ibrahim Khandker Md. Ariful Islam Kh. Rashedul Arefin Md. Sajidul Islam Alam Ahamed Md. Mahedi Hasan
	01:00pm-05:00pm	Visit to BSMMU and BUET for meeting the faculties to arouse their interest in using Zoom Platform	Erik Kikkenborg Md. Jahidul Islam Prof. Dr. Saiful Islam, BUET Prof. Dr. Mir Misbahuddin, BSMMU
	06:00pm-10:00pm	Social Dinner arranged by BdREN	Erik Kikkenborg Prof. Akhtar Hossain Prof. Dr. Mir Misbahuddin, BSMMU BdREN Officials
14/03/2019	10:00am-12:00pm	Awareness Development program arranged through Zoom and participated by different universities across the country	Erik Kikkenborg Md. Jahidul Islam Ibrahim Khandker Mohammad Tawrit Prof. Chinmoy, PSTU Prof. Mujahid, JUST
	02:00pm-04:00pm	Meeting with BdREN Officials and intimating them about the fault correction and mitigation process	Erik Kikkenborg Md. Jahidul Islam Ibrahim Khandker BdREN Officials
	04:00pm-05:00pm	Wrap-up Meeting with Vice-Chairperson, BdREN	Erik Kikkenborg Prof. Akhtar Hossain Mohammad Tawrit
15/03/2019	10:00am-01:00pm	Meeting with Project Personnel to discuss about the future roadmap of the project	Erik Kikkenborg Md. Jahidul Islam Ibrahim Khandker
	02:00pm-05:00pm	Wrapping up with project personnel	Erik Kikkenborg Md. Jahidul Islam Ibrahim Khandker

Outcome:

- Installation of Zoom Platform at BdREN Data Center
- Integration of Zoom Platform with Internet
- Configuration of Zoom Platform
- Creating Awareness among the Faculties about the project and the Zoom Application
- Capacity Development of BdREN Officials about the facts and features of Zoom

B.3 Activity 3: “Procurement of End-Devices for Testing Zoom Platform and for execution of Administrative Activities of BdREN”**Overview:**

This activity targeted the procurement of Desktop, Laptop, iPad, Samsung Smart Phone and iPhone for testing the connectivity and support of the Zoom Platform from all types of devices and browsers. The procurement process was ongoing till the end of the report period. The progress of the activity is as follows:

- Draft Specification submitted to TEIN*CC for approval
- Discussion with some of the Beneficiary Countries and TEIN*CC is ongoing regarding the procurement process

Once TEIN*CC approves the draft specification RFQ will be floated by each beneficiary country to procure the devices.

Problems Encountered:

- Due to delay in procurement of the End-devices testing of the efficacy and compatibility of the platform could not be done from all types of devices officially.
- Due to delay in procurement of Desktop and Laptop, the project progress was little bit affected.

Mitigatory Steps:

- The platform was tested by many different platforms while test meetings were organized. No connectivity issues have been reported till writing this report. Hence, it can be taken for granted that Zoom Applications will support all devices and browsers regardless.
- The officials those were recruited and were supposed to be provided with Desktop and Laptop from the project, used their own laptops to overcome the project failure in delivering them with the right logistics at the right time.

B.4 Activity 4: “Organize Train-the-Trainer Workshop-1”**Overview:**

The TTT-1 workshop was arranged to educate participants about the facts and features of “Zoom” application and also to impart them the knowledge about configuring Zoom Meetings and Webinars. Moreover, it was aimed to demonstrate the participants live meetings and webinars using Zoom Application. The objective of arranging the event was to ensure that the participants will be well conversant about the Zoom Application and once they return back to their country they will train other trainees about their learning. It was a

hands-on training program in order to involve the participants with the practical aspects of Zoom Application.

Venue: Jetwing BLUE, Ethukale, 11500 Negombo

Duration: 3 days

Date: 23rd to 25th Apr 2019, 9am to 5pm

Participants

- Sri Lanka - 5 (Five)
- Bangladesh - 5 (Five)
- Bhutan - 2 (Two)
- Nepal - 2 (Two)
- Philippines - 2 (Two)
- Thailand - 2 (Two)

List of Participant:

Full Name	Affiliation / Institute	Country
Khandakar Rashedul Arefin	Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN)	Bangladesh
Chalermpol Charnsripinyo	National Electronics and Computer Technology Center	Thailand
John Marlo Evangelista	University of the Philippines Diliman/PCARI-PRIME	Philippines
Syed Md. Galib	Jashore University of Science and Technology	Bangladesh
Kencho Gyeltshen	Gyalpozhing College of Information Technology	Bhutan
Senevirathna Herath	Lanka Research and Education Network	Sri Lanka
Md. Babul Islam	University of Rajshahi	Bangladesh
Md. Sajidul Islam	Bangladesh Research and Education Network	Bangladesh
Sonam Jamtsho	Jigme Namgyel Engineering College, Royal University of Bhutan	Bhutan
Erik Skov Kikkenborg	NORDUnet	Denmark
Weerasinghe Devage Dhammika Lalantha	Lanka Research and Education Network	Sri Lanka
Pramod Nyachyon	Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)	Nepal
Nattanakit Panitsatapon	National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC)	Thailand
Nirajan Parajuli	Nepal Research and Education Network	Nepal
Clarence Frank Inaldo Salting	PCARI Research and Instructional Infrastructure for Mentoring and Collaboration (PRIME)	Philippines
Kamrul Hasan Talukder	Khulna University	Bangladesh

Dinesh Gunawardena	Lanka Research and Education Network	Sri Lanka
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Instructor/Resource Person:

Sl.	Name	Affiliation	Country
1.	Mr. Erik Kikkenborg	NORDUnet	Denmark

Instructor Profile:

Erik Kikkenborg is the NORDUnet Media Services Manager primarily working with management, organisation and distribution of cloud based hosted video services. He has been active in Audio Visual and communications technology for more than 20 years starting as technician and project coordinator, moving on to manager and video consultant for a number of media and audio visual companies.

Erik's professional interests are to explore the potential of video as a way of communication in education. Currently he is working on how to change the educational landscape in developing countries applying online education platforms. Erik's focus is always looking into new tools and technologies that can improve education.

Throughout the years Erik has provided advice to many companies and International Research and Educations institutions on how best to apply video communications, learning platforms & technology, online video and live streaming.

For the past 10 years Erik's primary focus has been on collaboration with Nordic and International Research and Educations institutions in the area of online learning platforms for learning and collaboration, working on European and global projects under the GÉANT Event Team, GÉANT (eduCONF), Terena (NRENum), Global CEO Forum (GVA), (GRTC), asi@connect and Up2University (Up2U).

Another dedicated part of Erik's activities include the role of Technical Project Coordinator of a vast number of NORDUnet, DeIC, SUNET, NeIC, GÉANT, and the former Terena conferences around the Nordics and Europe.

Erik's specialties: film & video production, cloud video services, learning platforms, video platforms, video distribution, live streaming of large events, project management, wireless networks.

Agenda and Schedule:

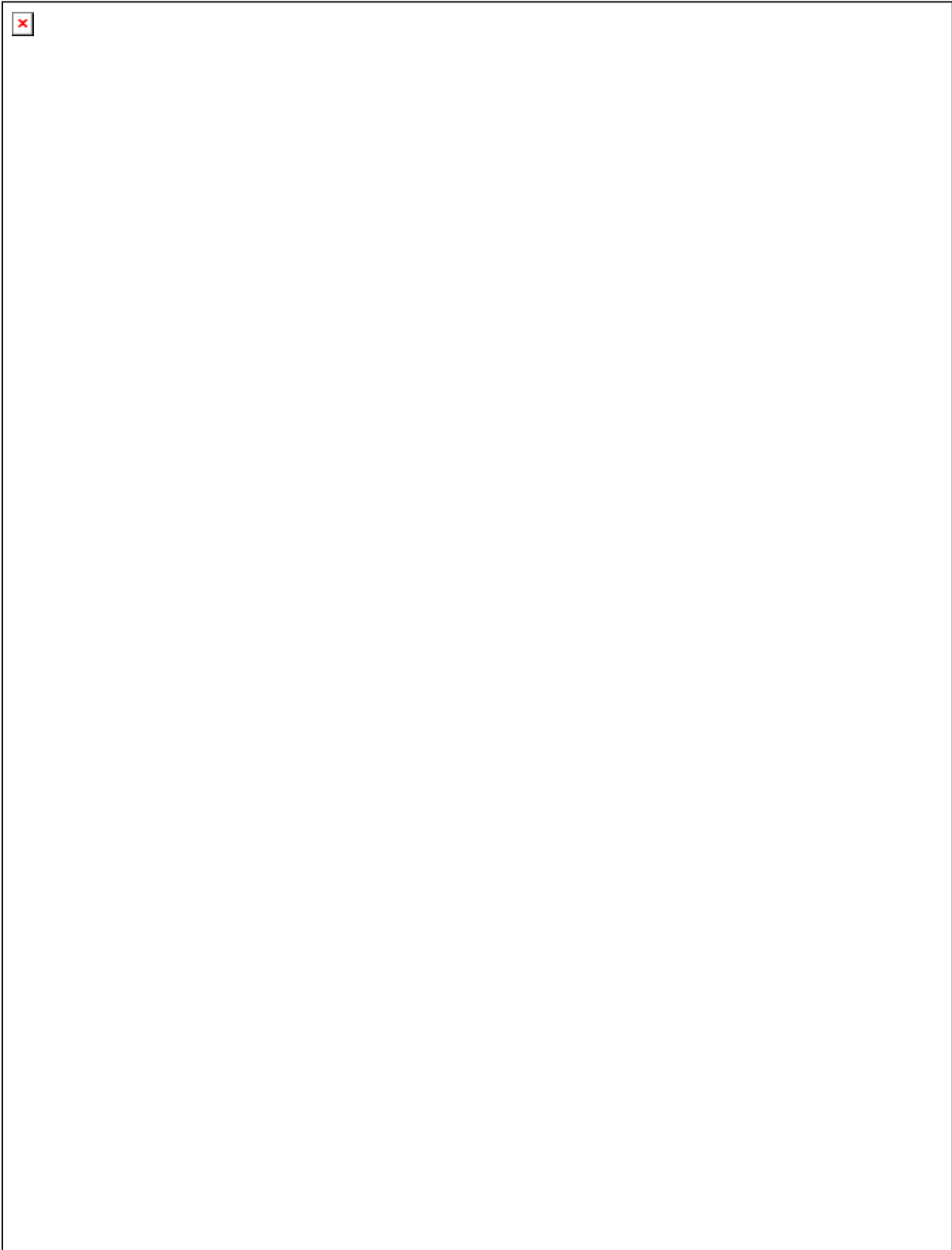
DATE	TOPICS	PRESENTER/REMARKS
23/04/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to Zoom web interface as an admin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Login 	Erik Kikkenborg

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add user • Different privilege • monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to Zoom web interface as an user <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settings • Meeting ID • Functions 	
24/04/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Live Demonstration of a Meeting ▪ Demonstration of a Webinar Settings. ▪ Identify differences between a Meeting and a Webinar. ▪ Meeting or Webinar? Which one should be used for planned DigiNars and DLCs? ▪ Live Demonstration of a Webinar. ▪ Recording a Meeting/Webinar. ▪ Types of Recording. ▪ Playing back a Recorded File. ▪ Tips for Developing an Online Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What to think about preparing an online course ▪ Tips for giving an Online Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember your students are not in the room, how to make it appealing to impart education online ▪ Branding: How to Brand Zoom Web Meeting/Zoom portal? 	Erik Kikkenborg
25/04/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Updates of the Project: Session undertaken over Zoom Meeting Application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience in: Negombo, Sri Lanka • Presenter: BdREN Office, Dhaka 	Mohammad Tawrit, Principal Investigator, fDLuDCf Project

Materials Delivered:

- Folder
- Calculator
- Pen

Copy of Issued Certificate:



Outcome:

- The participants knew about the features extended by Zoom Application.
- The participants could create, monitor and control a Zoom Meeting and a Zoom Webinar.

- The participants knew about the pros and cons of an Online course and how to make an Online course effective
- The participants were intimated about the latest status of the fDLuDCf project.

Problems:

On 21 April 2019, Easter Sunday, three churches in Sri Lanka and three luxury hotels in the commercial capital Colombo were targeted in a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings. Later that day, there were smaller explosions at a housing complex in Dematagoda and a guest house in Dehiwala.

At this very tragic and scary incident, the participants became worried and fearful. Some of the participants were about to take-off, a few of them were in transit. Fortunately the instructor reached Negombo by the time the news of the devastation flared up. Rene Buch, CEO, NORDUnet expressed his intention to withdraw the instructor Erik Kikkenborg immediately from Colombo back to Denmark considering his safety issue. However, with intense and frequent communications and assurance it was made possible to pacify Rene who arranged special security measures for Erik. The role of Dr. Roshan, consultant of LEARN, deserves acclaims given the fact that at all point of time he gave his assurance about doing his level best to ensure the security and safety of the participants. Finally, with the help of LEARN executives all foreign participants except the two participants from Philippines concurred and participated in the event. Among the local participants 3 out of 5 participated in the event. On their returning back, the participants from BdREN reported that they faced kind of bullying from the locals and also frequent inspection of their handbags by local people which was embarrassing for them. However, thanks to LEARN executives for completing the event in the midst of all such untoward and unexpected situation.

Feedback of the Participants:

C. Updated Project Plan:

Month-wise Project Plan is as follows

January, 2019	February, 2019	March, 2019	April, 2019
	Appointment of Project Staff	Installation of Zoom Platform	TTT-1 Workshop Venue: Negombo, Sri Lanka
May, 2019	June, 2019	July, 2019	August, 2019
Procurement of End-devices Installation of LMS	Publishing Web Page DigiNar-1: Financial Sustainability of NRENs	DLE Course-1: Cyber Security	Workshop on Evaluation Venue: Dhaka
September, 2019	October, 2019	November, 2019	December, 2019
DLE Course-2: Ethical Hacking	DigiNar-2: Challenges in introducing Eduroam and Federated Identity	DigiNar-3: Innovative Applications and Services in NREN	TTT-2 Workshop Venue: Philippines
January, 2020	February, 2020	March, 2020	April, 2020
DLE Course-3: Practical Cryptography		DLE Course-4: Software Defined Networking	Sensitizing and Knowledge Sharing Workshop Venue: Dhaka

The activity-wise progress up to July 2019 is as follows:

- January, 2019-April, 2019: Activities up to April 2019 have already been completed
- May, 2019: Procurement of End-devices is ongoing. It might take a little additional time as TEIN*CC didn't approve the RFQ till April 30, 2019 – the last day of the reporting period. Once the RFQ is approved, the approved RFQ along with the requirement of changes for making it country specific will be shared with each beneficiary country which will process the RFQ floating and collection of quotations.
- May, 2019: Installation of LMS-This was not initially part of project activity. However, NORDUnet allured us to include it as a project activity. The implementation of the same at the right time very much depends on NORDUnet.
- June 2019: Publishing Project Web Page – Specification of the Web Page completed. Purchase order is expected to be issued by Third Week of May, 2019 with one month time for completion.
- June 2019: DigiNar-1 – Project office has started communicating with the probable list of speakers. Based on the availability of speakers and their positive acknowledgement, official invitation will be sent. Registration process for the participants and the speakers will start by first week of June.
- DLE Course-1:

Year													
	Half-year 1						Half-year 2						
Activity	Month 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Implementing body
<i>Example</i>	<i>example</i>												<i>Example</i>
Preparation Activity 1(title)													Beneficiary or affiliated entity 1
Execution Activity 1(title)													Beneficiary of affiliate entity 1
Preparation Activity 2 (title)													Beneficiary or affiliate entity 2
Etc.													

3. Visibility

How is the visibility ensured in the Project?

TEIN*CC may wish to publicise the results of Projects. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the TEIN*CC website? If so, please state your objections here.

Name of the contact person for the Project:

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Signature:

Location:

Date report sent: