TELECOM for YTU

Support for telecommunication education, research & training at Yangon Technical University

Academic Disciplines Communications engineering

Project Budget (MFA Funding and Total) MFA: € 632 099   Total: 790 124 €

Project Duration 1.3.2017 – 30.3.2020

Coordinating Institution University of Oulu

Responsible Coordinator(s) and Contact Details Dr. Premanandana Rajatheva, nandana.rajatheva@oulu.fi

Affiliate Partners Yangon Technological University, Yangon, Myanmar

Description of the Project

Due to the recent developments in Myanmar the Telecom sector has been expanding exponentially within a span of couple of years. There are plans to implement 4G LTE services by the operator networks soon. Most of the current operators are run by expatriate experts causing tremendous difficulties for the companies due to the high costs and high staff turnover. The main problem at the moment is the lack of skilled work force as there is no adequate education in Telecommunication available. Most students need to go to neighbouring countries such as Thailand, Singapore etc. to have quality education. This is, however, increasing the inequality as only the ones with sufficient financial means are able to go abroad.

Telecommunication/ ICT has enormous potential in education and poverty-alleviation strategies; the dramatic speed of the positive feedback between ICT and knowledge generation and accumulation is already evident. By accelerating the availability and accessibility of ICT to the public, the digital divide in Myanmar can be narrowed.

The proposed project aims to develop and improve higher education in the Telecommunication thus contributing to the capacity building of the growing Telecommunication industry which in the long run should alleviate poverty and narrow the digital divide in the country.

The main outcome of the project is to have Telecommunication degree programs at Bachelor and Master levels. Naturally these will lead to an enhanced research portfolio and the establishment of postgraduate programs.

Key Results to be Achieved:

1. Poverty alleviation through better education (=skilled work force) and modern Telecommunication infrastructure
2. Improved quality of higher education & research in Telecommunications
3. Easier access to higher education & research