

The Preparatory Meeting for the Project Review of the Joint IPv4/IPv6 Research Project- 24 May 23

LEARN's Contributions to Internet Governance in Sri Lanka

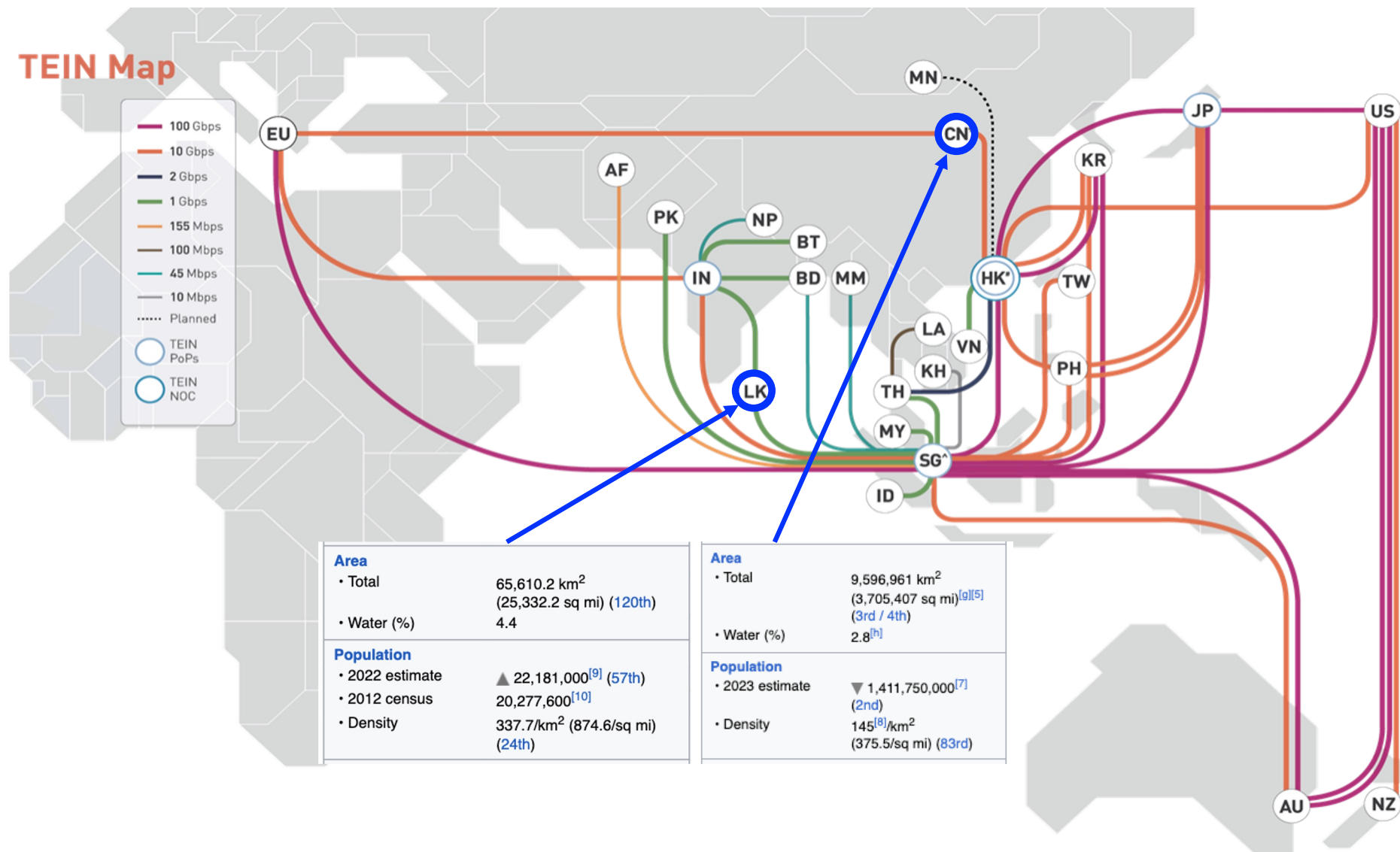
Roshan Ragel, Ph.D.

Consultant CEO, LEARN, LK



LEARN – Preamble

TEIN Map



LEARN and its Governance

- Lanka Education And Research Network (LEARN), the NREN (National Research and Education Network) of Sri Lanka was established in 1989.
- LEARN pioneered the setup of the first wide area network (WAN) in Sri Lanka, connecting universities and research institutions.
- As present, it is a Company Limited by Guarantee, owned by the UGC and State Universities.
- Membership



- The Operation of LEARN is Governed by the Articles of Association of LEARN (2009).
- Managed by the LEARN Board of Directors, one member each from the full member institutions.

LEARN: Vision and Mission





Vision

To be a world class Research and Education Network (REN) in the region, catering to the connection, communication and collaboration needs of the research and education community in Sri Lanka, to accelerate economic and social development.



Mission



-  Equity for all: providing cutting-edge, highspeed, and accessible network infrastructure and services such that each individual stakeholder gets the best possible and fair opportunity to reach an equal outcome.
-  More for less: address and anticipate the needs of the research and education community by offering sustainable, innovative and affordable infrastructure and services, removing the systemic barriers to provide equity for all.
-  Reimagining Research and Education: providing maximum opportunity to all to connect, communicate and collaborate across the global Research and Education Networks, for continuous advancements in learning and innovation.



A Snapshot of Internet in Sri Lanka*

*Neville Lahiru, **A snapshot of the state of Sri Lankan internet in 2022**. November 2022, available at <https://readme.lk/sri-lankan-internet-2022-snapshot/>

Internet Usage and Social Media in Sri Lanka

- As of June 2022, there were **19.43 million** (21%) mobile broadband subscriptions (3G and 4G) and about **3.08 million** (30%) fixed broadband subscriptions in Sri Lanka.
- The country recorded **11.34 million** internet users by January 2022 with an internet penetration rate of **52.6%**.
- **44.50%** of the population (aged 5 to 69) used the internet at least once in 2021, with over 77.00% accessing the internet via smartphones.
- Social media users totaled around **8.20 million** by January 2022. The platforms with the most reach were Facebook (7.15 million), YouTube (6.68 million), Instagram (1.55 million), LinkedIn (1.50 million), and Twitter (296.7 thousand).
- TikTok's popularity has surged with over 900,000 users as of June 2021.

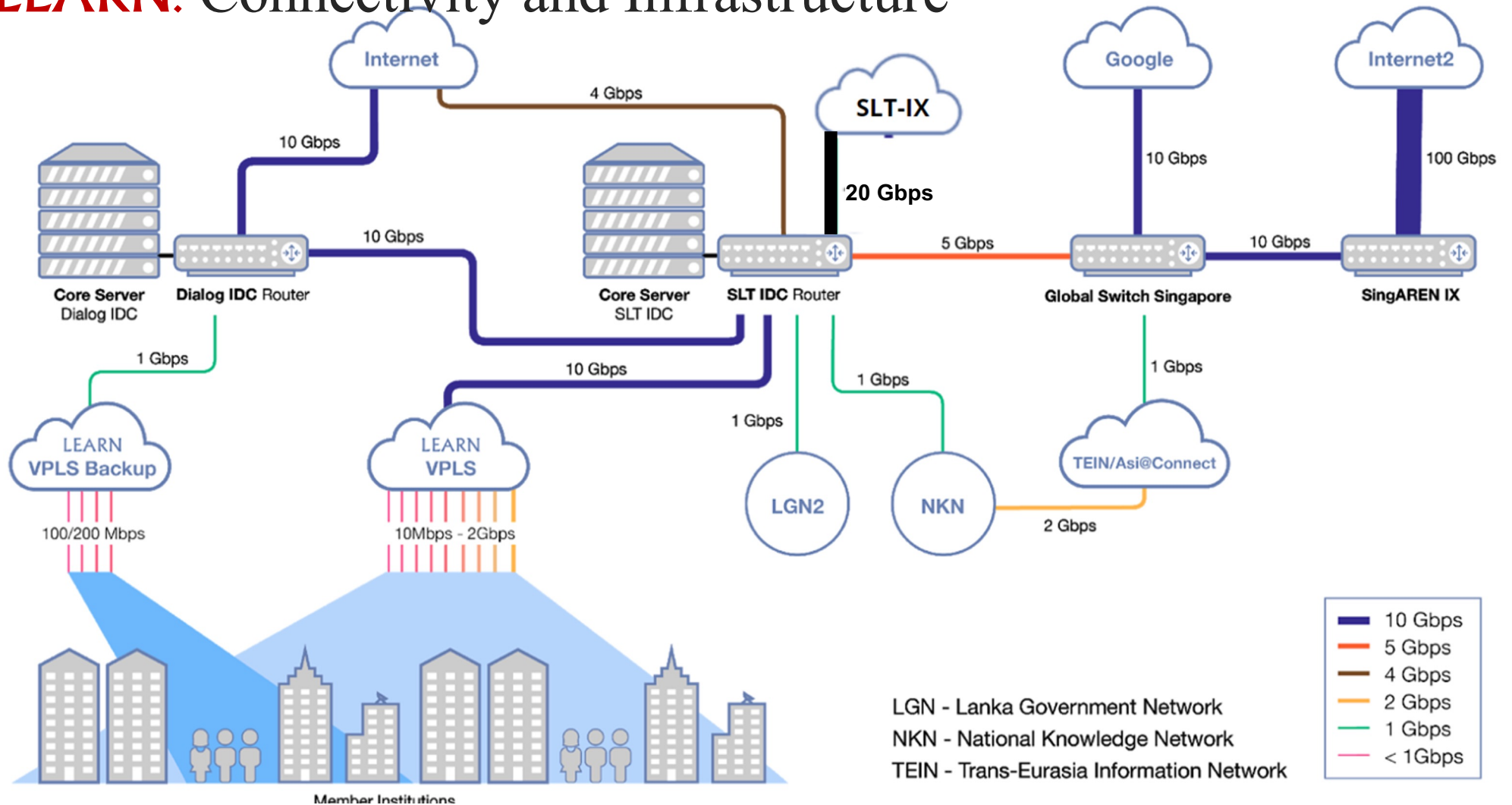
Internet Infrastructure, Ecommerce, and Digital Security in Sri Lanka

- Mean mobile internet connection speed in July 2022 was **20.99Mbps** (ranked 119 out of 140 globally), while mean fixed internet speed was **29.76Mbps** (ranked 129 out of 182).
- Ecommerce: **73.6%** of the population over 15 has a bank account, but only **7.7%** used online banking in 2021. In the same year, 2.7% made an online purchase, 4.7% paid bills online, and 47.2% used digital payments.
- The TRCSL (Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka) is considering upgrading the local internet infrastructure by transitioning from 3G to 4G and 5G.
- Data privacy and security remain crucial. Despite passing the Data Protection Act, Sri Lanka still lags in prioritizing digital security at a national level. The effectiveness of this act is yet to be fully realized.



LEARN's Role in Internet Governance

LEARN: Connectivity and Infrastructure



LEARN: Connectivity and Infrastructure

“Free Academic Network and Internet Access”

for eduRoam account holders

from more than 100 hotspots around the country

- Main railway stations
- Bus stands
- Hospitals and etc.

Visit eduroam.ac.lk for more details

LEARN

Lanka Education and Research Network




LEARN: Capacity Building


LEARN is Building a Bridge to Connect Asian Academics with the World

 Arterculate November 22, 2021 · 5 mins read



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<https://arterculate.asia/learn-connect-asian-academics/>

LEARN is Empowering Local Universities to Unlock the Full Potential of their Digital Infrastructure

 Arterculate January 25, 2023 · 5 mins read



<https://arterculate.asia/learn-empowering-local-universities/>


LEARN: Research and Innovation


How LEARN Empowers Scholars – A Conversation with Prof. Pradeepa Bandaranayake

 Arteclate April 28, 2023 · 6 mins read



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On track for faster railways in Sri Lanka

<https://www.inthefieldstories.net/on-track-for-faster-railways-in-sri-lanka/>

LEARN: Collaboration and Partnerships



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Project BeLISAC: An International Effort to Improve Access to Online Learning Across South Asia

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Bridging the Digital Divide in Asian Academia: A Novel Proposal from LEARN and BdREN

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For decades, National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) have played a critical role in empowering research and education communities, by ...



LEARN is Building a Bridge to Connect Asian Academics with the World

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LEARN's Role in Internet Governance

One to Remember

Covid'19 Pandemic Case

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The Storied History, Benefits and Successes of LEARN: The Lifeline of Sri Lankan Higher Education



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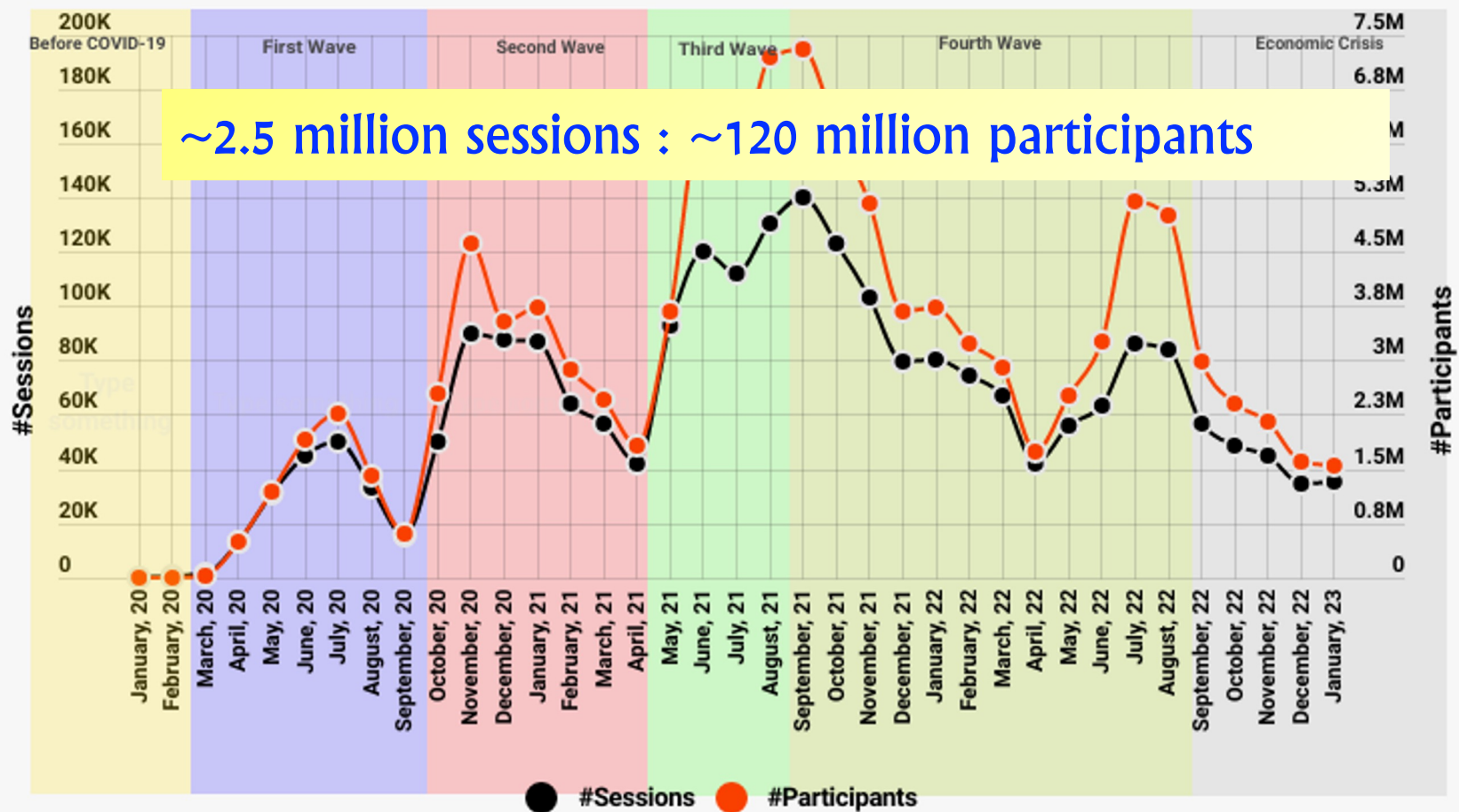


Government (TRCSL) Mandating ‘Free’ Data for REN



+ Adding a server pool for On-premise VCon

Monthly Video Conferencing (LEARN.Zoom) Activities January, 2020 - January, 2023



Monthly Video Conferencing (LEARN.Zoom) Meeting Minutes January 2020 - January 2023





LEARN's Future Plans and Vision

LEARN's Influence in Higher Education



University Grants Commission (UGC)

- ▶ Invested Rs 200 million (\$ 1 million) short term on IT Infrastructure
- ▶ People's Bank and University Grants Commission (UGC) tie up to provide laptop loans to undergraduates (~Rs. 3 billion = \$ 15 million)

LEARN's Influence in Government/TRC



Government/TRC

Setting aside a Rs 15 billion budget (\$200m) for 2021/22 for the “Connect Sri Lanka” (aka “Communication to the village”) Project

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LEARN

Lanka Education and Research Network



Thank you!

