

2021 in Review Plans for 2022

Goodbye to a Long Year And Hope for 2022



Can 2021 really have been a mere twelve months long? As we have cycled through Covid variations - and the cycles of hope, complacency and despondency they produce - it has felt as though the fates are attempting to fit a decade into a year. A sense of global and national events accelerating while our personal sense of time is distorted and fogged by the psychological impact of the pandemic.

After a year of increased momentum and action on engagements between Australia and South-East Asia, coupled with remote working through many COVID lockdowns, most of us are looking forward to resting and recharging.

We would like to thank everyone who helped grow and support our community this year. Whether that was by attending a workshop, co-moderate of our fantastic discussion, donating their time and effort supporting and growing our network.

Before we fully get going with our new year though, we would to recap some of the milestone events for 2021 and outline some things in store in this year events to share with you and we are always open to and very much encourage you to come forward your ideas and suggestions.

Thank you and hope you enjoy this report!

Asi@Connect TEIN proposal

All aspects of the global response to COVID-19 have involved different eResearch infrastructures and population-scale data analysis requires Big Data solutions.

While the focus of the project will be Indonesia and Australia but many of proposed activities will be shared through the Asia Pacific Advance Network (APAN), eResearch Conference and the International Conferences & Exhibition of UI-IMERI which will also benefit participants from other countries in the Asia Pacific region (including those from the 24 Asi@Connect Partners).

The project will drawn on expertise from a number existing projects such as from the Federated Identity, Roaming and E-infrastructure training from the Managed Application Network (iFIRE-xMAN) project by the Australian Access Federation (AAF) as well as experts from organisations such as Australian BioCommons, AUSTRAKKA, Indonesia Research and Education Network (IDREN) and with the Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN).

A big thanks to everyone who contributed towards the development of this awesome collaborative enterprise!



eResearch 
South East Asia



eRSEA participation in COG-Train

eRSEA participated in the COVID-19 Genomics Global Training (COG-Train) coordinated by the Wellcome Sanger Institute and Department of Medicine University of Cambridge (COG-UK Consortium).



**COVID-19
GENOMICS
UK CONSORTIUM**

As part of the recent initiative to expand into Asia after a successful campaign in Africa, the COG-Train held its first Asia Focus Group meeting on 2 November which was highly successful and very informative.

eRSEA participated an outline some of the activities in Australia and South-East Asia.

The initial meeting attended by participants from UK and six Asian countries (BD, ID, IN, MY, SG and PH) introduced the COG-Train team and the courses and programme that will be offered and then discussed the input from the participants about training requirements.

The latter will likely become pointers as part of the needs assessment workshop which will be in large part run by the colleagues at Wellcome Connecting Science who we are partnering with COG-Train on the programme delivery.

Congratulations to COG-Train for making this happen and many participants are all making sure that more can get on the open source programme!

For more on COG-Train, please contact Idris Sulaiman.

BioCommons 2021 Showcase

Australian BioCommons projects draw key players together to deliver complex enhancements and new solutions for the digital life sciences.



Revisit the sessions (3-5 Nov) to discover the breadth of the activities, review the impact they are having and connect over a collaborative vision for the future of Australian bioinformatics and bioscience research infrastructure.



Key players came together to deliver complex enhancements and new solutions for the digital life sciences. The 2021 Showcase demonstrates a collaborative vision for the future of Australian bioinformatics and bioscience research infrastructure as well as illustrates the wide network of peers working hard to make these collaborative projects a success.



There were speakers from eResearch organisations such as AARNET, NCI, QCIF, ARDC, Pawsey and Bioplatforms Australia.



Australian Research Data Commons

There were also speakers from research, including Southern CrossUniversity, University of Technology Sydney, University of Sydney, Australian National University, Seven Bridges, and the Baker Institute. It also had representatives from ELIXIR and its associates.

eResearch Australasia 2021

The Australasia eResearch Organisations (AeRO) convenes the annual (now virtual) gathering of delegates for the opportunity to engage, connect, and share their ideas and exemplars in eResearch.



Keynotes starting each of the 4-day conference were topical and illuminating starting with Professor John Shine, President Australian Academy of Science giving his review and discussion of the "Advancing Data Intensive Research in Australia" (Academy of Science) report (11 Oct).

This was produced by an expert working group to chart the course forward to succeed the 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap.

The remaining keynotes cover topics range from Microsoft's Research at Redmond Lab; how socially driven organisations such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International and others are doing their data driven decision making; how eResearch infrastructure providers such as AAF, ARDC, PAWSEY and NCI are responding to the discussions on the future national research infrastructure roadmap.

There was also an overview of Canada's eResearch journey culminating in the creation of a new national digital research infrastructure (DRI) organisation called the Digital Research Alliance of Canada (the Alliance).

As usual the eResearch Conference 2021 features a range of presentations on a wide range of topics. As in the case in previous years, eRSEA facilitated a number of SE Asian researchers to participate in this annual event as well as take the opportunity to network with their peers with the view of working towards collaborative projects.

Review the abstract of sessions (11-15 Nov) to discover the wide range of the activities across multiple disciplines.

51st Meeting of APAN

The APAN51 which was held virtually was coordinated by the Pakistan Education & Research Network (PERN). As with other APAN events held since its formation in 1997, APAN51 was a key driver in promoting and facilitating network-enabled research and education activities in the Asia Pacific region.



Significant improvements in educational outcomes have been attributed to APAN events as it allows educators and students to share knowledge and to discover and learn remotely; enhances the ability of all member economies to participate in global collaborative innovation through unprecedented access to digital resources, instrumentation and expertise for education, research and societal benefit; provides access to scarce or expensive educational and research resources around the region.

Professor Emerita Margaret Kartomi, Director, Musical Archive of Monash University (MAMU).

eRSEA facilitated 3 presentations at this event, 2 presentations at the Rural Healthcare Session (part of the Medical Working Group, RHC/MWG) from Dr Fadhilah Mathar, Director of Resources and Administration, the BAKTI Program, Ministry of Resource & Administration; Dr Idris Sulaiman, Outreach Coordinator eRSEA; and

52nd Meeting of APAN

eRSEA brought together a number of speakers in the "Birds of a Feather" (BoF) Workshop entitled "The Role of Computing Research Infrastructure and Genomics Data Sharing in Dealing with COVID-19 and the Next Pandemic" at APAN52 (2 Aug).



We discussed various collaborative activities that has made an impact in the present activities in addressing COVID-19 as well as potentially providing pointers in improving the future of bioinformatics and bioscience research infrastructure in Australia, South-East Asia and the rest of the Indo-Pacific region.

APAN52 held many other sessions including topics that touches issues relating to South-East Asia in the APAN sub-groups such as Open Data and Data Sharing, Identity Access Management, Medical, eCulture, Cloud, Disaster Mitigation, Security, Asia Pacific Research Platform and other Working Groups.

As in the case in previous bi-annual events, eRSEA facilitated a number of SE Asian researchers to participate in this annual event as well as take the opportunity to engage their peers with the view of working towards collaborative projects.

APAN52 was an exciting and productive event that was coordinated by the Indonesia Research and Education Network (IDREN) and Universitas Islam Indonesia brought together nearly 1,100 participants from 39 economies around the world.

C3DIS 2021

This 3-day conference sponsored by Australia's leading science body CSIRO represents a unique networking opportunity for Australian scientists, researchers and “technology experts” from various domains and organisations to gather, and learn from each other’s success stories through the conference sessions.



Keynotes from Microsoft on the first day attempts to demonstrate an AI-driven collaborative vision for addressing the sustainability challenges through their Planetary Computer platform being applied to projects such as the Healthy Country AI project in Australia's Kakadu National Park.

Equally ground-breaking were the keynote presentations on Modeling Urban Environments with Voxels from the Geospatial Research Innovation and Development (GRID) lab at UNSW as well as the Immersive Visualisation and the role of VR in HPC data analysis from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) High Performance Computing and Visualization Group.

As with previous annual events, the C3DIS 2021 (6-8 July) features a range of presentations on themes of Collaborative and Engagement, Applying Engineering Techniques to Research Software and Research Data and "Cross-Cutting Capability" themes among others.

eRSEA facilitated a number of SE Asian researchers to participate in this annual event as well as take the opportunity to network with their peers with the view of working towards collaborative projects.



Plans for 2022

Asi@Connect TEIN proposal

This year we hope to implement a successful project for the Asi@Connect proposal we submitted in 2021. All aspects of the global response to COVID-19 have involved different eResearch infrastructures and population-scale data analysis requires Big Data solutions.

While the focus of the project will be Indonesia and Australia but many of proposed activities will be shared through the Asia Pacific Advance Network (APAN), eResearch Conference and the International Conferences & Exhibition of UI-IMERI which will also benefit participants from other countries in the Asia Pacific region (including those from the 24 Asi@Connect Partners).

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53rd Meeting of APAN

**Call for Papers, Presentations,
Posters, Panels, Workshops and
Sessions 7-11 March 2021 at
<https://apan53.apan.net>**



Research and Education have become ever more collaborative, cross-institutional, and international. They depend on advanced, high-quality and high-performance networks to reach collaborators, teachers, students, as well as access to key research infrastructure. The current pandemic situation has further demonstrated the immense value of networks to support research, education and societies as they maintain connectivity and communication across cities, nations and continents.

APAN 53 will again be run online, with a range of innovative interaction models across all session-types and demonstrating the abilities of modern collaboration technologies to deliver an engaging experience regardless of location. The opening session will include in-person presentations for those in Bangladesh, as well as being made available online. As part of fostering global participation in this event, there will be no registration fee, it is free to attend and participate for everyone, from anywhere, with a relevant interest in networking and IT in the support of research and education.

At APAN53, eRSEA will be coordinating two sets of workshops: Infrastructure training support for genomic data storage and network access by Galaxy Australia/Australian BioCommons; and Training, Awareness Raising and Exploring potential infrastructure collaboration in Internet Access Management by Australian Access Federation and IDREN-Universitas Islam Indonesia.

The core team



DR IDRIS F SULAIMAN

@ Strategic engagement and outreach coordinator, eRSEA
@ Research associate, Research Center for Climate Change, University of Indonesia
@ Former visiting fellow (IT Sustainability), College of Engineering & Computer Science, Australian National University and ANU alumni



DR MARKUS BUCHHORN

@ Strategic policy & computational network advisor, eRSEA
@ General Manager, Asia Pacific Advanced Network
@ Former founding CEO, Australasian eResearch Organisations (AeRO)
@ Adjunct Lecturer, Computer networks, School of Computing, Australian National University



ROWLAND H MOSBERGEN

@ Strategic policy, bioinformatics / biomedical and research software engineering coordinator, eRSEA
@ Research data management policy advisor, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne, Australia
@ Founder of Practical Diversity and Inclusion



ANDREW HOWARD

@ Global and regional infrastructure advisor, eRSEA
@ Cloud team manager, National Computational Infrastructure, Australian National University
@ Chair, Program Committee and Co-chairs of several Working Groups, APAN

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