

= A Serial Introduction Part 2 = Winners of ITU-AJ Encouragement Awards 2020

In May every year, The ITU Association of Japan (ITU-AJ) proudly presents ITU-AJ Encouragement Awards to people who have made outstanding contributions in the field of international standardization and have helped in the ongoing development of ICT.

These Awards are also an embodiment of our sincere desire to encourage further contributions from these individuals in the future.

If you happen to run into these winners at another meeting in the future, please say hello to them.

But first, as part of the introductory series of Award Winners, allow us to introduce some of those remarkable winners.

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Fields of activity: ICT Projects in Education



International Cooperation to Improve University Education in Myanmar

It is a great honor to be recognized with this ITU Association of Japan Encouragement Award. I would like to offer sincere thanks to the ITU-AJ and all those involved.

From FY2014 into FY2017, through a special contribution from the Japanese Government and multiple Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) pilot projects operated in Myanmar to eliminate the digital divide, education and research cloud servers were installed at the University of Information Technology (UIT) in Yangon and a cloud network was built, which several IT universities could use through Internet VPN networks. As a result of participating in these projects, and even after they finished, I have been working with government and university-related people in Myanmar to promote the following three main policies, to expand cloud networks and build environments to promote their use.

The first was to add four more cloud servers, distributing the

load among the major computer and technological universities, compensating for increasing load as more universities use them in the future. The second was to hold workshops in collaboration with APNIC (the organization managing IP addresses in the Asia-Pacific region) starting in FY2018, to improve networking technology used by university professors. The third was to give students an opportunity to improve their programming and development, planning and English presentation skills, and to hold application contests starting in FY2017 for all 46 universities under the Education Ministry that have IT-related faculties.

I learned many things through frequent visits to the area, asking about their needs, seeing, hearing, contacting, and understanding again and again. The process of solving such problems takes time and effort, but the joy of accomplishing them is very special. I hope to continue working with the people there in the future.

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Fields of activity: Network Function Virtualization

Contributions to NFV Standardization Activities

It is my great pleasure to receive this Encouragement Award from the ITU Association of Japan. I believe that it is a result of collaborative effort with people involved and I would like to offer my sincere thanks to them.

ETSI-NFV was established in 2012 to standardize virtualisation of network functions, and is a place where many technical organizations share their experiences. The NFV architecture designed at the birth of the community has frequently been referenced by many standardization organizations, and NFV deployments compliant with the standards can also be seen in service providers' production environments. It has been a valuable experience to be involved with the innovation process, from recognizing new technical value to popularizing them in the market.

My main achievements can be seen in the area of network infrastructure. I contributed to technical documents describing a

collection of use cases and architecture, in which multiple NFV environments are interconnected over wide area networks. I also contributed to Interoperability test reports in ETSI-NFV and Optical Internetworking Forum, providing verification of interactions between NFV and network infrastructure based on Transport SDN API specifications. These experiences led me to further recognize that devices from different vendors can be managed without vendor-specific knowledge, which clearly highlights awareness of the significance of technical standards. Moving on with my involvements I became newly motivated to work on data modeling for NFV resources as an ETSI-NFV rapporteur. The achievements have been reflected in a specification on the ETSI-NFV portal.

Encouraged by this award from the ITU Association of Japan, I hope to continue contributing to 5G/ 6G technologies and the computers and communications industry.