

### ASREN is Holding NREN BGP Workshop in Amman during 5-8 September, 2016

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AMMAN – The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) is organizing a specialized workshop on “NREN Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)” in cooperation with the Network Startup Resource Center (NSRC) at the University of Oregon in the USA. The workshop will take place at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University, during 5 - 8 September, 2016.

This four-day workshop includes a variety of lectures and hands-on lab work that targets technical staff of organizations who are connected to the National Research and Education Networks (NRENs), or in building or operating a wide-area NREN infrastructure, with international or multi-provider connectivity.

The NREN BGP workshop is specifically designed to

give the workshop participants focused knowledge, aiming to empower them with BGP skills required for the configuration and operation of Research and Education networks; whether at national University or National REN level; to R&E backbones.

ASREN invited participation from all the Universities, Research Institutions and NRENs from across the Arab World.

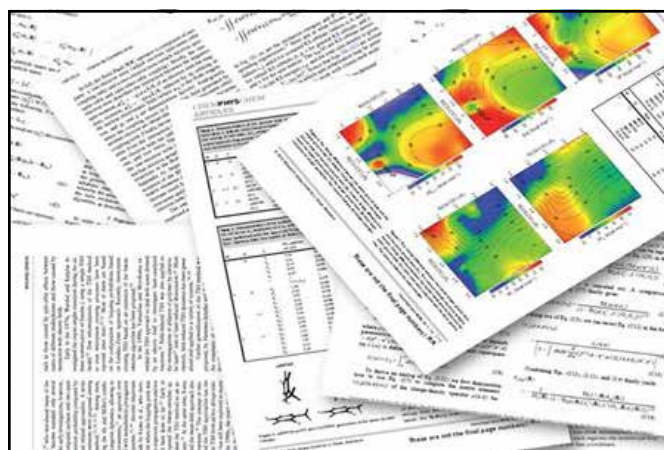
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## Call for Papers

### International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructures in a Global Environment – e-AGE 2016

*1-2 December, 2016 – American University of Beirut, Lebanon*

AMMAN – Authors are invited to submit papers for presentation at e-AGE 2016, the 6th Annual Conference of the Arab States Research and Education Network for Research and Education Networking. The e-AGE series of conferences have been held for the past five years. e-AGE has become an important venue for networking among experts and scientists from all over the world. This year's conference will take place from 1 to 2 December 2016 in Beirut, Lebanon and will be hosted by the American University of Beirut.



The theme of e-AGE 2016 is “Ubiquity and Cohesiveness of e-Infrastructures”

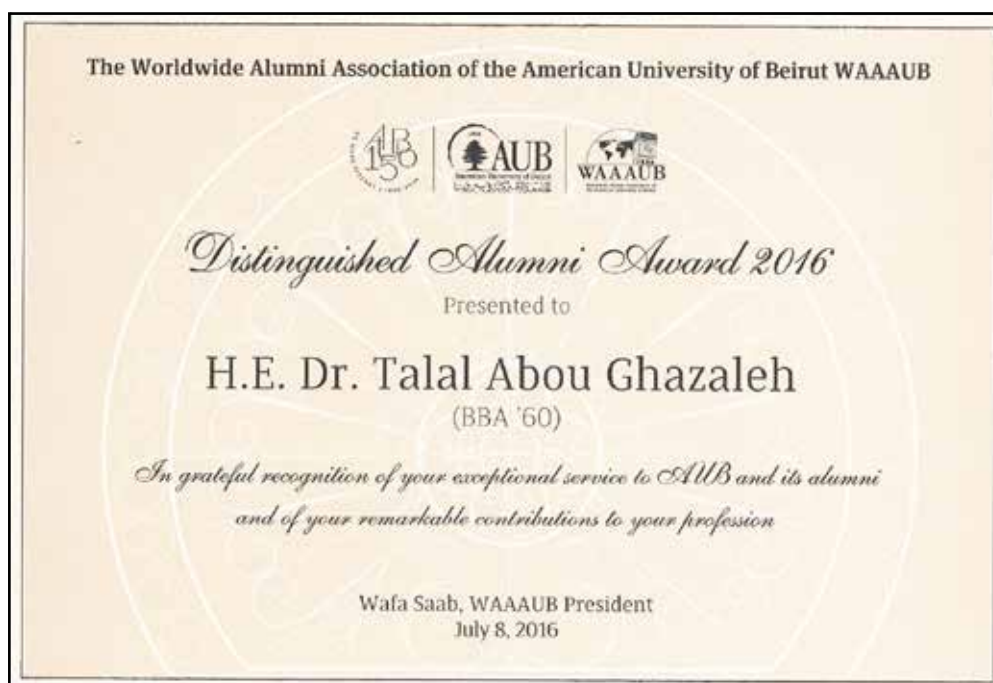
Authors are invited to submit abstracts of research by October 10 on topics related to:

- Scientific computing and data-intensive e-Science in the scientific areas related to energy, environment, health, climate, water, agriculture, biology, economy, medicine, as well as in social sciences and humanities.
- Perspectives on NRENs, including challenges, operation, sustainability, funding, governance, business models, security and services.
- Problem-solving environments and access to research and education resources, repositories, libraries and contents, clouds, grids, parallel and distributed computing, and high performance computing.
- Virtual Research Environments, Internet of Things, Science Gateways, Federation of Identities, and AAI services.
- Visualization and Virtual Reality

For more details, please visit the conference website at:

<http://asrenorg.net/eage2016/?q=Page/call-participation>

## The American University of Beirut Honors HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh During the Celebration of its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



BEIRUT – The Worldwide Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut (WAAAUB) Board of Directors honored HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization with the prestigious WAAAUB Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2016 during the Association’s Reunion Honoring Ceremony held at AUB Assembly Hall.

The WAAAUB Committee for Awards granted Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh the Award for his outstanding worldwide stature and professional attainment in the field of “Business and Entrepreneurship” as well as his many contributions to professional and education services, corporate and social responsibility and patronage of many valuable civil initiatives, which deserve the recognition and pride by AUB Alumni.

During the ceremony, AUB President Dr. Fadlo Khuri said: “HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh has typified the AUB tradition of excellence and brought credit to the University by his professional achievement, personal accomplishment and philanthropic service.”

Upon receiving the Award, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his pride in receiving the Award saying: “I am greatly humbled and honored to be receiving this award. I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude to the Board and Committee for this acknowledgement; the AUB has always been a powerhouse in driving the change in the world of education and as a graduate from this great institution which I owe a lot to its futuristic and dedication to education, I say ‘thank you.’”

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh’s pioneering work has been recognized by the United Nations with whom he

became chairman of 14 UN boards and initiatives including: Digital Technologies for Sustainable Urbanization Network, Global Alliance for ICT and Development, UN Global Compact, UN Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, Advisory Committee on Internet Governance, and UN Committee of Experts on Professional Qualifications Standards, as well as boards of all international accounting bodies.

His many personal honors include 'Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur', Decoration of Independence of Jordan, and 40 other decorations and awards, as well as five Honorary Doctorate Degrees. Member of the WTO Panel on Defining the Future of Trade, Senator at the Jordanian Upper House, and most recently the Order of Independence of the First Order from Jordan's King Abdullah II.

He is a Patron for Walid Gholmieh Symphonies, Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra and Chair of Jordanian National Orchestra Association; Chair of the globally leading Intellectual Property Rights company, as well as over 30 other chairmanships.

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## Research and Education Connectivity Project in Central Asia Rebooted



*CAMBRIDGE* – Over 500,000 researchers, academics and students across Central Asia stand to benefit from the launch of the 3rd phase of the EU-funded Central Asia Research and Education Network (CAREN) project, which resumes regional connectivity after the previous project phase ended in August 2015.

With 4.5M Euro initial EU co-funding (through its Development Co-operation budgets), the project will run up to 2019. CAREN3 will initially reconnect Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan where the governments have signed bilateral financing agreements with the EC. Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan



and Uzbekistan; and are also eligible to join the project subject to EC approval and similar government financing agreements.

Building on the previous two project phases, a new tender is already underway to re-establish a high-capacity regional network in Central Asia and to maintain and further develop advanced connectivity for R&E communities with counterparts in Europe and in other parts of the world. Existing and future collaborative projects span areas such as environmental monitoring, solar energy, telemedicine, the digitalization of cultural heritage and e-Learning, which are to be re-started and further developed.

“CAREN3 opens the door to re-establish R&E collaborations between Central Asia and Europe. I believe the financing commitments secured with the Central Asian governments should strengthen the prospects for long-term project sustainability. Awarding the contract for the third phase of CAREN to GÉANT also reaffirms its role as the EC’s trusted manager of R&E networking projects in this strategically important region,” said Mr. David West, CAREN Project Manager of GÉANT.

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## ASREN Connection Opens Door to Global High-Speed Connectivity for Middle East Science Hub\*



AMMAN – Via its dedicated link from Amman to its PoP in London, the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) has recently connected SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) in Jordan to GÉANT and, by extension, to the global R&E networking infrastructure, thus preparing the ground for tackling the data deluge in the years to come.

Setting up on the CERN model and going live in 2017, this first synchrotron radiation facility

in the Middle East is destined to become a major scientific hub in the region with unrivalled opportunities for international collaborative research.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of ASREN, indicated, "SESAME creates a motivating scientific environment that encourages the region's best minds to stay in the region, whilst tackling global challenges. ASREN welcomes this connection as it prepares the ground for SESAME to become a major player on the global scientific scene."

General Director of SESAME, Dr. Khaled Toukan said, "Advanced connectivity is essential for regional and international inter-disciplinary research and for scientists to fully reap the benefits of SESAME. In particular, we look forward to collaborating with our partners in the Vi-SEEM project to support scientific communities of Life Sciences, Climatology and Digital Cultural Heritage."

SESAME will provide a vital resource for a wide variety of physics applications, both in the region and further afield: developing new materials, probing the structure of DNA, penetrating the secrets of chemical compounds, designing pharmaceuticals, performing disease infrared imaging, assessing archaeological artefacts, measuring soil pollution and much else besides.

Once the facility will reach full working capacity, it will produce thousands of gigabytes every day, which will be transferred to HPC centers in and outside the region for analysis, including partners in the EU-funded Virtual Research Environment Vi-SEEM project.

Initially at 50 Mbps, the link is the first step in providing an advanced international connectivity set-up for this endeavor to succeed and is anticipated to act as proof of concept for significantly higher capacity in the future.

ASREN is partner in the EU-funded EUMEDCONNECT3 project, which supports R&E networking for the Eastern Mediterranean (Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine). SESAME is expected to be a major regional driver of connectivity to GÉANT for the region.

Synchrotron partner laboratories from Germany, France, Italy, UK, Sweden and Spain are supplying expertise, equipment and technical support, and the EC has contributed over €10 million including for the magnet system for its main storage ring.

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