



Under the Patronage of Lebanese Minister of Telecommunication and the Presidency of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

**eAGE 2016, AROQA 2016, and OSSCOM 2016 conferences Convene in Beirut**

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***Abu-Ghazaleh: We seek to make national networks for research and education in the Arab countries part of ASREN***

*BEIRUT* - HE Mr. Botrus Harb, Lebanese Minister of Telecommunications has inaugurated the 6th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-infrastructure in a Global Environment (e-AGE 2016), the 8th Annual Conference of the Arab Organization for Quality Assurance in Education (AROQA 2016) and the 2nd International Conference on Open Source Computing (OSSCOM 2016) at the American University of Beirut under the presidency of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of AROQA and ASREN.



HE Mr. Harb expressed his strong interest in advancing the Lebanese network infrastructure to support not only the research and education communities, but also all the citizens of Lebanon as motivated in the telecom vision 2020. He noted that Lebanon is acknowledged among the first three most dynamic countries in terms of the ICT development and the second biggest mover in the year 2015 on the Network Readiness Index. These developments will of course strengthen innovation

and entrepreneurship movement in the Lebanese mobile Internet ecosystem supported by high speed networks and open source technologies. He declared his support for the Lebanese Education and Research Network (LERN) for which highly discounted connectivity prices will be provide.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said “we witness today growing interests of Arab National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) in joining ASREN in addition to National Research and Education Networks in Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, Somalia, Iraq and Palestine”. He noted “we are looking forward to active participation of Arab NRENs in ASREN to support and enhance the development of research and e-Infrastructure in the Arab region”. He pointed out that ASREN shall continue to serve the Arab region in developing best practice NREN model and to provide pan-Arab e-Infrastructure connectivity at the regional level.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh further announced the establishment of the Arab Association of e-Universities under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. He also announced strong interests of partners to adopt open source software technologies as means for innovation and spread of technology at a wider scale in the framework of OSSCOM project supported by Tempus in partnership with universities in Jordan, Lebanon, Germany, Spain and the UK.

It should be noted that the conferences were attended by HE Mr. Yasser Abdel Moneim, Director of Education and Scientific Research at the League of Arab States in Egypt, HE Dr. Fuad Qasem, Secretary General of the Ministry of Higher Education in Iraq, and official representatives of international organizations, researchers, experts, and academics from across the Arab region and the world.

e-AGE 2016 attracted high level and distinguished speakers from around the world. More than 50 speakers from 25 countries presented topics related to research and education with a focus on the importance of ICT, e-Infrastructures and networking for the development of research and education.



Stéphanie Truillé-Baurens, EC, Belgium



Dr. Mohammad Harajli, AUB, Lebanon



HE Mr. Yasser Abdel Moneim, LAS, Egypt



David West, GEANT, UK



Yousif Asfour, AUB, Lebanon



Ayman El-Sherbiny, UN-ESCWA, Lebanon



Johnathon Chapman, Internet2, USA



Pascal Hoba, Ubuntunet Alliance, Malawi



Boubakar Barry, WACREN, Senegal



Walid P. Karam, University of Balamand,  
Lebanon



Omar Aljarrah, JUST, Jordan



Patrick Fassnacht, CERN, Switzerland

It was decided that the next year's conferences will be held in Egypt under the patronage of HE Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States.



## ASREN Holds Workshop on Identity Federation Infrastructure

*BEIRUT* - The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), headed by its Chairman HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, held a specialized workshop on “Identity Federation Infrastructure” with the attendance of representatives of scientific research networks and universities in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Malawi, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia and in addition to Jordan.

The workshop, that took place at the premises of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, December 3-4 2016, concentrated on

technologies which allow federated access to the services. It focused on identity federations which are used for federated access to web based services but it has also tackled eduroam infrastructure.

Participants had an overview of eduroam, identity federations and eduGAIN, and they were able to prepare policies and agreements, which will be signed with GEANT representatives in order to connect to the global community.



Participants learnt how to build national federation, and how to install and configure Shibboleth v3 for the home organization and connect it to the national federation. Which sets the stage for them to then connect national identity federation to the eduGAIN.

One of the objectives for holding the workshop was to ensure the provision of research resources and applications and help

researchers and academics have access to classified databases, which mainly rely on Identity Federation such as ASREN Science Gateway, in addition to other scientific research portals as well as their applications.

The workshop was held in cooperation with EUMEDCONENCT Project, and the Middleware for Collaborative Applications and Global virtual Communities -MAGIC Project; both funded by the European Commission.

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## **ASREN Holds Workshop on Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)**

*BEIRUT* - The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), headed by its Chairman HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, held a specialized workshop on “ Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)” with the attendance of representatives of scientific research networks and universities in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Malawi, Palestine, Somalia, Switzerland, Tunisia and in addition to Jordan.

The workshop took place at the premises of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, November 29-30 2016, targeting new or potential CSIRT personnel who wish to gain a solid understanding of the main aspects of working in an incident handling and response team. It offered experience and expertise in Operational, Organizational, Legal and Technical areas, which form knowledge basis for CSIRT personnel.


The workshop offered the participants a unique opportunity to mix with their peers and discuss security issues in a secured and trusted environment, whilst being tutored by seasoned experts of the European CSIRT community. The course was opened to individuals working for a CSIRT or network security related organization, and those with bona-fide interest in establishing a

CSIRT. Applications were also welcomed from commercial, governmental, law enforcement and military organizations, as well as national research and education networks (NRENs) and research and education institutes.



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