



Abu-Ghazaleh announces declarations and outcomes of ASREN's Sixth Annual Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructures

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BEIRUT - The Sixth Annual Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructures (e-AGE 2016) held under the Patronage of HE Mr. Botrus Harb, Minister of Telecommunications in Lebanon concluded its activities with His Excellency Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh announcing the following outcomes:

1. Recognition of the National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) in the development of their national networks and support to establish international high-speed links cross boarder interconnection towards building a more inclusive network infrastructure for research and education at the regional level.
2. The League of Arab States will support the political level for an integrated "Arab Connect".

3. Emphasis of ASREN's leading roles in developing pan Arab e-Infrastructures to support research and education communities and linking them to Europe and worldwide.
4. Recognition of the European Commission's co-funding schemes and GÉANT's development role in the framework of EUMEDCONNECT3 and AfricaConnect2 to build and operate dedicated high-speed networks in the Mediterranean countries and in coordination with Ubuntunet Alliance and WACREN in Africa.
5. Recognition of the efforts of the Internet2 Special Interest Group in international linkage to Internet2 network in the US and abroad.
6. Importance of the role of organizations and communities such as GEO, Internet Society, RIPE-NCC, ICANN, ITU, ALECSO, and ISESCO in supporting research and education communities.

The recommendations of ASREN's Shareholder Meeting, which was held during e-AGE 2016, are to:

- Support Arab national research and education networks.
- Develop an advanced pan-Arab e-Infrastructure and strengthening research connectivity to make it available for use on a regional scale.
- Develop regional points of exchange, one of them currently operational in London for peering with GÉANT, and two other are being established in Fujairah, and Alexandria.
- Deploy services for science and education at the national and regional levels including science gateway, eduroam, and edugain activities.
- Continue a process of consultation with a task force of experts from ASREN, GÉANT, and Internet2 for the following actions on the "Arab Connect" initiative:
 - » A comprehensive concept document
 - » Detailed technical design and financial implications
 - » Marketing document for dissemination and outreach
- Endorse ASREN's plans for 2017 as follows:
 - » Promote the operations and development of network and points of exchanges (Fujairah, Alexandria).
 - » Support the development of Arab National Research and Education Networks (NRENs).
 - » Legally register the new shareholders of the Arab NRENs: Iraq, Somalia, Algeria, Palestine, Oman, and Lebanon.
 - » Develop a master plan for awareness of the importance of research in the Arab world for economic and social development such that we may be able to engage decision makers, researchers and the civil society at large towards making scientific research a priority.
 - » Develop an action plan explaining the usefulness of the scientific research infrastructure developed by us for all development purposes and engaging research centers at universities and other research institutions to make use of this infrastructure research facility.

- » Define the management model for this facility in such a way that it becomes a constructive tool for creativity, especially by our young generations.
- » Ensure that the network will be strictly used for productive useful research in the fields of educational economic and social development away from counter productive use and strictly for research objectives.
- » Organize e-AGE 2017 at the League of Arab States in Cairo, Egypt during December 2017 in co-location with AROQA 2017.
- Continue efforts of e-AGE in a larger audience scale as a manifestation of the sound basis and the respectable sustainability of the dialogue environment towards developing Arab research and education networks.

ASREN's Emphasis at UbuntuNet in Uganda to Develop the e-Infrastructures in Africa



ENTEbbe - The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) participated in the annual conference of the UbuntuNet Alliance UC2016, which took place in Entebbe Uganda represented by its Executive Director Yousef Torman.

During the conference, specialized workshops to representatives of the National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) on both technical and communications aspects were held.

ASREN Chairman HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, highlighted the importance of participation in such events.

“We are proud with our longstanding relationship with the UbuntuNet Alliance as we share common objectives. We coordinate efforts for the development of research and education infrastructures in Africa together with GÉANT and WACREN.”

In a pre-conference workshop, Torman gave a presentation on user engagement and delivered a message at opening session.

He also discussed with officials and representatives of regional and international organizations the opportunities of future cooperation in new areas that help develop and enhance services offered to users through research and education networks.

Abu-Ghazaleh Chairs ASREN Shareholders' Annual Meeting

BEIRUT – HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh headed the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) at the American University in Beirut.

Abu-Ghazaleh approved ASREN's operational plan of 2017, which emphasized pan Arab research and education network development. It also emphasized the importance of services and applications to research and education communities, including eduroam, eduGain, Science Gateway, and Identity Federation platforms for seamless access to repositories, computing facilities, and services, worldwide.

The importance of research to support economic and social prosperity was raised to enable policies to prioritize scientific



research and develop actions for national e-Infrastructures to link universities, research centers, and educational institutions.

It was decided to form a technical task force to work on “Arab Connect” initiative in

cooperation with the Arab League and the Arab Organization for ICT and the International Telecommunication Union. The objective is to strengthen efforts to build a research and education network across the Arab region to interlink communities of research and education. The initiative involves three elements: national research and education network, pan-Arab e-Infrastructure, and Services. The aim of the national infrastructure

and the regional research and education is to connect universities and research centers at the national level and become an integral part of the global networks for research and education.

It was also decided to hold e-AGE 2017 and AROQA 2017 under the patronage of the League of Arab States in Cairo in December 2017.



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