ASREN

Arab States Research and Education Network

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ASREN Supports Quality, Research and Education in West and Central Africa
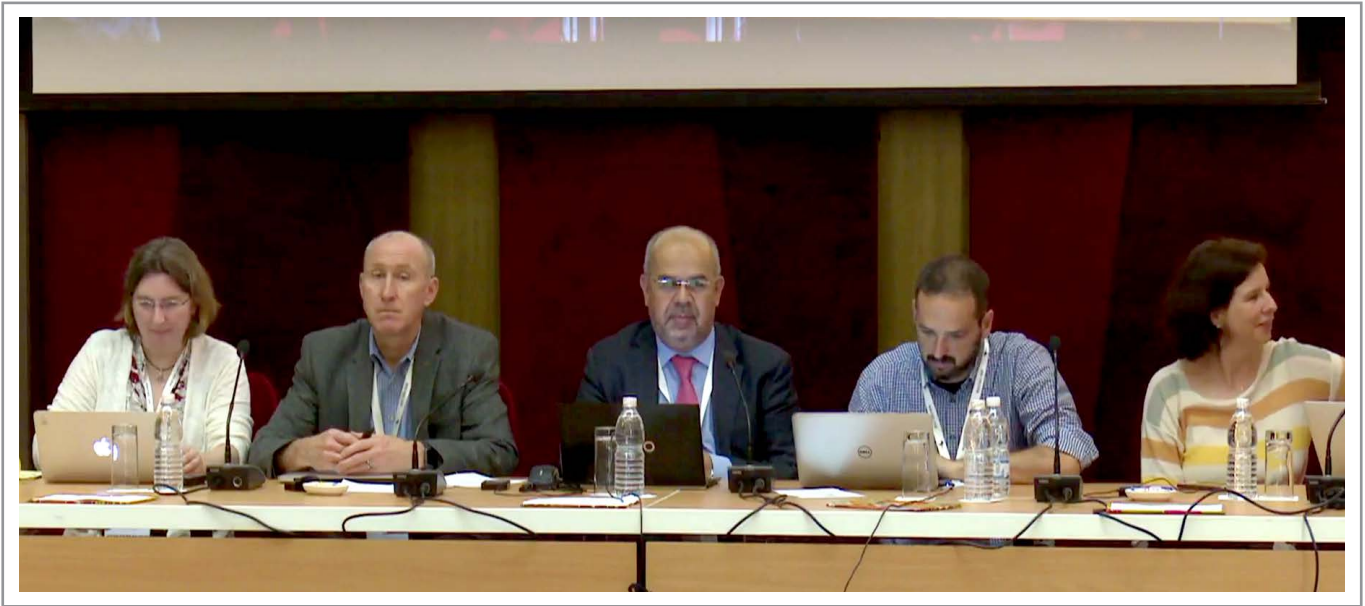
ABIDJAN - West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN) had conducted its third annual conference WACREN 2017 in Abidjan 30-31 March 2017. The main theme of the conference "Catalyzing Quality Higher Education and Research" with subthemes on advanced networks, applications and services, trust, identity and security in addition to NRENs and communities.

This year's conference brought together policy and decision makers, scientists, researchers, network managers, collaboration specialists, e-learning, identity and access management experts, and connectivity and equipment providers from across Africa and the rest of the world.

The conference was preceded by two workshops on cybersecurity and engagement with librarians as interfaces with the end-users. The event was also collocated with AfricaConnect2 meeting, a joint MAGIC/TANDEM/Sci-GaIA workshop and the Final Event of the TANDEM project.

Yousef Torman, Executive Director of ASREN participated in the conference and the workshops and participated in several roundtable discussions and meetings. He also chaired one of the main sessions and sent a goodwill message during the high level official opening ceremony on current collaboration and future avenues to extend cooperation and signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Africa Training Initiative.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of ASREN said: "I take this opportunity to thank the European Commission for the AfricaConenct2 Project which is a key enabler for us to cooperate with our African partners WACREN and Ubuntunet Alliance to better serve Africa".

ASREN Signs MoU on Africa Training Initiative with WACREN and Ubuntunet Alliance for Training

ABIDJAN - The three regional research and education networks of Africa: WACREN for Western and Central Africa; UbuntuNet Alliance for Eastern and Southern Africa and ASREN for North Africa, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on African Training Initiative (ATI) to coordinate joint efforts on training and capacity building for NRENs and universities across Africa on ICT and Internet security.

The parties signed this MoU because they share common needs for establishing an appropriate framework for sustainable capacity building and skills' growth in the operation of their networks, and to further develop the security of the Internet in Africa.

ATI initially started as an independent community initiative that was operated under the auspices of the Nigerian Research and Education Network (NgREN). Its main focus was on the development of the Internet in Africa, the growth of local skills and capacity, the adoption of better practices in building and protecting the Internet as well as fostering the emergence of a productive environment for the growing community of African users.

The regional research and education networks of Africa will now adopt the Africa Training Initiative to enable it to function as a defined and endorsed project under their auspices; in particular to promote a self-sufficient capacity building ecosystem for African networking professionals through input into university programs, student involvement and also through fostering Internet research.

Commenting on this important stride forward, ASREN Chairman, HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh said: "ASREN is responsible for the Northern part of Africa, but we are committed to work and cooperate with our African Partners to provide the best training and capacity building tools and to enable knowledge sharing and experience exchange across the entire African continent."

The MoU was signed by Boubakar Bary representing WACREN, Pascal Hoba representing UbuntuNet Alliance and Yousef Torman representing ASREN.

Call for Papers
Education, Science and Innovation - The e-AGE 2017 Conference
Cairo – Egypt, 3-4 December 2017

The e-AGE conference had established itself as an important venue for networking among experts and scientists. In 2017, e-AGE will be held under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, the secretary general of the League of Arab States in Cairo, Egypt during 3 – 4 December 2017. The main theme of e-AGE 2017 is "EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION".

e-AGE 2017 will include events, workshops and meetings centered around the following:
- 10th Event on Euro-Mediterranean e-Infrastructure
- 7th Annual Meeting of ASREN
- 9th Annual Conference of the Arab Organization for Quality Assurance
- EUMEDCONNECT3 and Africaconenct2 Project Meetings
- Technical workshops on R&E networking

Moreover, special sessions will be dedicated to specific domains, mainly focusing on experiences in connectivity and e-Infrastructure, applications and services across a variety of scientific domains. It is also important to show how research infrastructure creates tangible benefits to communities and collaborations. It is still critical to demonstrate how research connectivity can promote collaboration and innovation. Different discussions will be stimulated during e-AGE to drive outcomes and concrete results on practical steps towards developing a regional e-Infrastructure.

Authors are invited to submit full papers reporting on their original and unpublished research in e-Infrastructures and computational and data-intensive sciences. All papers will be peer-reviewed and accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings.

Topics of interest include, but not limited 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, Virtual Research Environments, Science Gateways and collaborative tools, applications and services.
- Education and e-Learning Technologies, access to educational resources, repositories, libraries and contents, clouds, grids, parallel and distributed computing, and high performance computing.
- Internet technologies and trends, Internet of Things, Security, SDN and AAIs.

For more details, please visit the conference website at:
http://asrenorg.net/eage2017/?q=Page/call-participation

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