

*“ASREN is a non-profit company with limited liability (GmbH) and is officially registered in Germany, under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. The main goal is to connect Arab institutions among themselves and to the globe through high-speed data-communications networks. Such networks will enable sharing and access to a variety of R&E services and applications in addition to utilization of highly sophisticated and technologically advanced computing resources available only at very few institutions in the world.”*

## In this issue

Concluding the “9th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructures in a Global Environment” – e-AGE19

1

The GÉANT Community pays tribute to Dr. Lajos Bálint

3

## Abu Ghazaleh Chairs ASREN’s “9th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructures in a Global Environment” – e-AGE19



Abu Dhabi – The Arab States Research and Educational Network (ASREN) held recently its “9th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructures in a Global Environment – e-AGE19” at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi, during 11-12 December 2019.

The meeting was hosted by the United Arab Emirates’ Advanced National Research and Education Network (Ankabut), and in cooperation with the European Commission and the international research and education

networks in Europe, USA, Africa, Latin America and Asia. All participants were warmly welcomed at the opening session by Dr. Arif Al Hammadi, Executive Vice President of Khalifa University, and Dr. Fahem Al Nuaimi, Ankabut CEO, who also presented the achievements in e-Infrastructures at UAE.

e-AGE19 activities concentrated on “Groundbreaking Research and Education Networks” as the main theme, with a focus on demonstrated successes in using research and education e-Infrastructures and a need for interoperable high speed networks at national, regional and international levels.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of the Arab States Research and Education Networks and Chairman of TAG.GLOBAL, acknowledged the role of the European Union in co-funding high-speed networks in the context of EUMEDCONNECT and AFRICACONNECT projects. These networks have contributed to supporting research and education in the African and Mediterranean region through interlinkage to the European GEANT research and education network.



A number of achievements have been witnessed, including; the new phase of AfricaConnect Project, the joining of Palestine, Iraq, and Somalia as new official shareholders of ASREN, and the upgrade of Algerian link from 2.5 Gbps to 10 Gbps.

A cooperation agreement was signed with the Egyptian Universities Network (EUN) to establish high-speed links for research and education and linking to ASREN’s exchange point (PoP) in London.

The meeting was attended by more than 80 participants from 21 countries including Brazil, Cyprus, Egypt, Ghana, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the UAE, the UK, and the USA.



## The GÉANT Community pays tribute to Dr. Lajos Bálint

The GÉANT Community is extremely saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Lajos Bálint.

Lajos was a much loved, highly respected and greatly admired member of the community, indeed he was someone who truly embodied the word - being the voice of moderation, of putting the community first, of standing together and working through challenges. That he did this with a warm smile and such eloquent use of the English language only served to add to his infectious character.

Most recently a Consultant for the Hungarian Governmental Informatics Development Agency (KIFÜ), Lajos was also heavily involved in a vast range of projects and initiatives to further the benefits of international research and education networking and collaboration.



He will be sorely missed, and our thoughts are with his family and colleagues at this difficult time.

“This is terribly sad news to us all. Lajos was enormously respected, immensely knowledgeable and truly wise; his attitude and passion made him a great advocate for European collaboration. The NREN community will miss Lajos deeply, and none of us will forget the pleasure and privilege it has been to discuss and work with him. Our condolences to our colleagues at KIFÜ, and most especially to Lajos’ family.” – Chair of the GÉANT Board Christian Grimm.

“Lajos was convinced of the strength of the community: that NRENs working together can achieve much, much more than any individual NREN could ever do, and it was this goal to which he contributed. He participated in various community projects, related EC committees and governance structures to make this happen. Always well informed and always contributing with a well-argued position. Through these actions he was an important driver for the Hungarian NREN, but also for the growth of the European NRENs and GÉANT. The GÉANT community has lost a very important key figure. We will miss him deeply.” – GÉANT CEO Erik Huizer.

Source: <https://connect.geant.org/2019/12/11/the-geant-community-pays-tribute-to-dr-lajos-balint-copy>

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