



NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2014

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## ASREN Conference e-AGE 2013 hosted delegates from 30 countries



### Tunis, Tunisia, 12th – 13th December, 2013

The Tunisian capital hosted the 3rd “International Platform on Integrating Arab e-infrastructure in a Global Environment, e-AGE 2013”, 12-13 December 2013 under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Moncef Ben Salem, Tunisian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and headed by His Excellency Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN).

The theme of e-AGE 2013 focused on Connectivity, Access and Innovation. Participants in e-AGE 2013 included more than 200 delegates representing more than 30 countries and representatives of the League of Arab States, World Bank, European Commission and other international agencies, decision makers, academics, network professionals, researchers, scientists, government officials, enterprises and NGOs.

The meetings aim at emphasizing on the necessity of establishing education and research networks in the Arab world as well as enhancing cooperation opportunities between the current networks in order to link researchers and academics on one hand, and to provide them with services on the other.

In his speech, the Minister said:» This meeting is of a great importance through its uniqueness at the level of the Arab region and in the world in terms of the entities that are involved in. It is a unique opportunity for researchers Arabs and those in charge of the development of scientific infrastructure in the Arab world to take advantage of this gathering of academics, professionals, specialists and experts in these areas.»

Meanwhile, HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said “The Forum gathered experts, decision-makers and scholars from Arab countries, Europe and the United States, Africa and Latin America, Canada and Asia, which confirms the seriousness and attention to the development of a network of education and research in the Arab region. It is necessary and important to build on these successes and the adoption of the necessary steps towards the development of infrastructure and link the Arab efforts in the field of scientific research and education with all over the world.»

HE Ambassador Faeqa Al Saleh said That the League’s participation in the forum and the conference comes in the context of strengthening partnership and networking with non-governmental organizations, including «ASREN and AROQA,» which have continued over the past five years in raising the issues consistent with the mobility of education about search for tools that will promote scientific research and improve the quality of education, and efforts in the field of the use of information and communication technology in the educational process and access to support the overall development process.» It was concluded to continue on concrete basis:

- To accelerate the integration of Arab e-infrastructure and connecting them with the European, the US, the Latin American, and the African research and education Networks through three main exchange points in London, Fujaira, and Alexandria.
- To continue to support the development of research and education infrastructure in Lebanon, Bahrian, and Iraq.
- To continue to support peering of emerging networks in Qatar and Oman.
- To continue to support and initiate concrete discussions with Yemen and Libya towards taking concrete steps in developing their national e-Infrastructures.
- To emphasize the importance to extend effective participation of ASREN, integrate Arab unified e-infrastructure and promote the role of research and education communities in the Arab world.

## Abu-Ghazaleh recognized the donation of ISOC and Cisco Systems for ASREN PoP in London

January 6th, 2014



His Excellency Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of ASREN recognizes the donation of the Internet Society and Cisco systems for the donation of a high throughput router for research traffic to support interconnection to research and education networks at the global level.

The Internet Society has generously donated an advanced networking equipment to assist in the development of the pan-Arab research and education network.

Through a kind grant from Cisco Systems, the Internet Society provided the equipment to help out the national research and education networks (NRENs).

“Part of our decision was based on useful discussions with your team, with ASREN’s team, with DANTE staff, and with Cisco staff” Said Jane Coffin, Director of Development Strategy at the Internet Society. “We hope that this donation will continue to assist ASREN to develop its network infrastructure”, Jane added.

“The donated equipment will be housed at London Telecity in order to establish points of presence for ASREN for interconnection with DANTE and other networks”, said HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh.

We appreciate the support of Internet Society to help in ASREN development of its core REN infrastructure to extend the benefit of e-Infrastructure everywhere in the Arab region.

## Abu-Ghazaleh, Egyptian Ministers and Universities' Officials Discuss Technical and Educational Programs and Projects

cairo, Egypt, January 19th, 2014



Egypt will be one of the twenty economies in 2020. This will take place despite the current situations in Egypt which we considered as a positive transition stage. It gives human being the confidence that no specific entities would monopolize or continue to monopolize the state- HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), announced a set of projects and programs in the fields of scientific research and IT to be implemented in Egypt in the near future by TAG-Org.

He said: "We work with many agencies in Egypt on significant projects, including the establishment of the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) of which I have the honor to chair as a joint project with the EU. The purpose of this organization lies in the development of a scientific research network that connects universities and research centres."

"We are contacting Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to have the centre of the Network established in Cairo. In addition, we want this network to be a free zone for scientific research, information exchange and to connect universities and research centres related to development and modernization," he added.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh revealed final-stage discussions with the American University in Cairo on the establishment of Engineering Management Faculty. He pointed out "This major is not specialized in architecture or in the construction and the development of engineering project management. We teach this major at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University College in Bahrain" He said: "Our works and services enhance the (performance) government, private sector and educational institutions especially on using skill technique."

As Chairman of ASREN,, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh held a meeting with Minister of Higher Education Dr. Hossam Issa, Minister of Education Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Nasr and several university presidents and discussed the scientific and technical cooperation with the Organization.

A press conference was also held on “Arab and Egyptian Education Future between Reality and Application” in which he confirmed that the education was one of the most important and strategic sectors in the state. He called for the necessity of the transition to the digital education which will eliminate the idea and the problem of the university campus. He pointed out that smart bag and school are the solution.

He also said: “There is a dangerous phenomenon facing Egypt these days. 89% of Egyptian people receive education in public schools and universities. However, the future will be for the digital education being the best and the most spread around the world. Thus, we need an Egyptian revolution to change education in Egypt as we have to eliminate digital literacy. We, at TAG-Org, worked out the developing of a special program for this purpose.

Moreover, that program was approved by Cambridge International Examinations/ University of Cambridge. It also called for the rapid transition to the digital education and smart schools.”

On the other hand, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said: “Egypt will be one of the twenty economies in 2020. This will take place despite the current situations in Egypt which we considered as a positive transitional stage. It gives human being the confidence that no specific entities would monopolize or continue to monopolize the state.”

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh also said: “I believe that the strength or the weakness of the Arab nation lies in Egypt’s strength or weakness.” He underlined that Egypt remains a historical pivotal state. It is also the key engine of the Arab world.

“We have the honour to be the only institution of its kind which has its building and headquarter in the Smart Village of 6th of October City.” He considered that eliminating monopoly allowed opportunities to people to work in light of equality. “This will help; in its return, to create innovation which produces nothing but an age of equal opportunities and possibilities for all.”

## NREN and medical communities join forces to combat Dengue Fever

**Bandung, Indonesia, January 20th, 2014**

The latest Asia Pacific Advanced Networking (APAN) meeting held in January in Bandung, Indonesia, saw the addition of a dedicated Dengue Fever workshop in the programme for the established APAN Medical Working Group.



A joint APAN-TEIN\*CC initiative, the workshop took place on 20 January 2014, attracting over 30 attendees, including clinicians and researchers from within the multi-disciplinary dengue fever community, public health officials as well as National Research and Education Network (NREN) representatives from across the Asia-Pacific. Titled “Dengue Fever- Let’s STOP it!”, the workshop set out to provide a forum for participants to share experiences and best practices and to exchange ideas around how to manage, prevent and fight this infectious tropical disease. According to the World Health Organisation, Dengue Fever is putting almost half of the world population at risk. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs117/en/>

The discussions also provided an opportunity to explore how the NREN community and research and education (R&E) networks, at the national, regional and global level, can support the medical community’s international collaborative efforts to combat Dengue Fever in endemic countries and to prevent its spread. In addition to speakers from Pakistan, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Malaysia who attended the workshop in person, colleagues from Singapore, Sri Lanka, Australia and Japan joined the discussions remotely via a live video link provided by SingAREN, LEARN, AARNet and NII /NICT respectively.

All sites were able to view the presentations and follow the discussions in real time using the multi-point videoconference system supported by their respective national R&E networks and the regional Trans EurAsia Information Network (TEIN). With high-definition images and stable connections, participants experienced videoconferencing first-hand, as a time- and cost-effective collaboration tool.

The presentations covered a wide range of topics, from clinical case management to relevant climate impact studies. A round-table discussion that followed focused on taking stock of objectives and activities, as well as on how to move forward by working together and sharing experiences and processes to better combat the resurgence of the disease in the region.



Participants agreed to build on the positive experience of the workshop and NREN-supported videoconferencing and to follow up with virtual meetings around specific topics and areas of research interest. Professor Leo Yee Sin (Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore) stepped forward to facilitate the next virtual meeting on clinical case management.

Discussions are underway with NRENs in Latin America and Africa, among other world regions, about adapting this workshop model to the local context to help build regional communities. The driving force behind the workshop, Prof. Francis Lee Bu Sung, President of SingAREN and Chair of Governors of TEIN\*CC, commented: "This was a very inspiring event. I hope it will act as a catalyst for more joint actions. Everyone left with renewed energy and enthusiasm in our quest to stop the spread of Dengue Fever and to improve its treatment!"

The presentations can be downloaded from <http://www.apan.net/meetings/Bandung2014/Sessions/Med.php> (please scroll down to mid-page).

A video of the workshop is available from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTyx3dT0Kg>

If you wish to find out more about this Dengue Fever initiative or want to join the next virtual workshop, please contact Professor Francis Lee Bu Sung at [ebslee@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:ebslee@ntu.edu.sg)

## H.H. the Deputy Prime Minister of Bahrain welcomed the concept of BahREN



**Manama, Bahrain, January 28th, 2014**

The Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa received the Chairman of Abu Ghazaleh Group also the Chairman of the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN).

Abu Ghazaleh briefed His Highness on the proposed Bahrain Education and Research Network aimed to ensure information linking between various educational and academic research institutions. The proposed network would be connected with the Arab Research and Education Network in order to boost the exchanging of knowledge and data between research centres and educational institutions all over the world.

HH the Deputy Prime Minister welcomed the concept and said such projects would develop education and training and would be submitted to the relevant bodies for consideration, studying and issuance of suitable decisions in this regards. His Highness praised the role of Talal Abu Ghazaleh Group citing the Group's provision of professional accountancy, administrative, educational and technological consultancy services.

Abu Ghazaleh thanked HH the Deputy Prime Minister for his diligence on developing education and training in Bahrain, lauding his attentiveness to developing various educational programs and policies as per modern international techniques as well as his belief in the importance of building an educated generation capable of successfully serving their homeland and community.

## Abu-Ghazaleh discusses with Libyan Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research



**Amman, Jordan, February 25th, 2014**

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, president of the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) received the Libyan Deputy Minister of Higher Education, HE Dr. Bashir Eshtewi and the accompanying delegation to discuss ways of cooperation regarding the establishment of a National Libyan Research and Education Network.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh briefed the guests on the work of ASREN which operates under the umbrella of the League of Arab States and seeks to establish and Arab Research and Education Network and contribute in building national networks in all Arab countries.

The meeting focused on the importance of well-connected research and education national networks with global networks where the network enables access to a huge sum of research and education resources available in many developed countries. The meeting discussed the following issues:

- The importance of studying the e- infrastructure in Libya to issue recommendations to support building the national network to provide connectivity with the outside world
- Libya's accession to the EUMEDCONNECT3 Project
- Establishing a Libyan research and education network to link Libyan universities and other educational institutions
- External link with Arab and global research and education networks

In addition, coordination is currently underway to organize a workshop in Libya that will gather representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Communication, decision makers and experts from universities and others in the field of research and education in the Arab world to study the Libyan situation and sign an agreement to establish a network with a detailed working plan.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh suggested the idea of Libya's accession to the Euro-Mediterranean Interconnection Program 2030 which will help globally activate the role of the economy in 2030 and the nomination of a number of research centers to join and represent Libya in this important Program, also the Center for Scientific Research was proposed to be established at the University of Benghazi.

## The first IMAN1-LinkSCEEM User's Meeting



### Amman, Jordan, March 12th, 2014

The first IMAN1-LinkSCEEM User's Meeting took place on Wednesday 12th of March, 2014 at IMAN1 Centre in Amman – King Hussein Business Park Building #25. The event was successfully organized by SESAME and LinkSCEEM Projects to promote IMAN1-LinkSCEEM activities, opportunities, and available resources to the active HPC community of Jordan. The other main objective of the meeting was to officially launch IMAN1 Project as Jordan's First National Supercomputing Centre.

More than 25 active HPC users from Jordan with diverse scientific backgrounds attended the meeting and showed great interest in utilizing the diverse HPC resources of IMAN1 and LinkSCEEM to fulfill their advanced computational needs.

H.E. Dr. Khaled Toukan delivered the opening session welcoming the attendees and encouraging them to utilize IMAN1 resources to advance their scientific research and development activities.

Salman Matalgah and Mostafa Zoubi (SESAME's LinkSCEEM representatives) gave a dedicated presentation about the LinkSCEEM project and discussed the availability and value of IMAN1-LinkSCEEM HPC resources to the Jordanian scientific community.

A detailed presentation of IMAN1 PS3 Production Cluster, Parallel Computing, and MPI Programming was given by Zaid Abudayyeh, emphasizing the importance of HPC for computational sciences and other research domains. In addition to that, Dr. Zubair Nawaz and Koryun Manukyan showed a live demo of two scientific applications related to the field of SYNCHROTRON that ran successfully on IMAN1 HPC resources.

Finally, a complete site visit and tour of IMAN1 facility was conducted, followed by an open discussion session to address the regional HPC challenges related to the limited HPC knowledge, experience, resources, training, and community support.

For more information about LinkSCEEM, SESAME and IMAN1 projects please visit [www.linksceem.eu](http://www.linksceem.eu), [www.sesame.org.jo](http://www.sesame.org.jo), [www.iman1.jo](http://www.iman1.jo)

## ASREN participation in ICANN 49 Meeting in Singapore



**Singapore, March 23rd – 27th, 2014**

As a main player in establishing, operating and managing at the regional level representing one of the largest populated networks in its region which will interconnect more than 500 Universities and 200 centers serving the students, researchers and academicians in the Arab region, ASREN, and since its launch is coordinating with main players in the world in the networking technology and Internet organizations.

For example, ASREN hosted the 11th Middle East Network Operators Group (MENOOG) in Amman, September 2012.

ASREN worked with ISOC and recently received a high end router donated from ISOC.

ASREN is now member of the Arab Internet Governance Forum. ASREN also started good relations with ICANN since 2011 as ICANN participated in ASREN's first conference in Amman and later sponsored its 2nd and 3rd conference. Recently, ASREN participated in ICANN 49th meeting in Singapore 23-27 March 2014 for the following reasons:

- To better understand the role and functions of ICANN and how it works.
- To explore and discuss the opportunities of collaboration between ICANN and ASREN.
- To network with participants from around the world.
- To bring the awareness of ASREN community and networkers on the recent trends, changes and challenges in the Internet .
- To bring the awareness to Internet communities and organizations about the importance of NRENs and seek for their support.

ASREN had several meetings with key stakeholders from around the world including ICANN, ISOC, MLIGRP and discussed with them the importance of dedicated networks to support the developments of research and education with examples and stories of success from around the world with focus on the Arab region which recently started several activities to develop the R&E infrastructures.

Engagement of the NREN technical staff with their peers in other organizations was a main discussion topic with capacity building and awareness plan.

One of the most important meetings during the ICANN 49 was the meeting with the President and CEO of ICANN, Fadi Chehadeh who commended on the role of ASREN and committed to support the developments of research and education infrastructures.

Another fruitful meeting with Fahd Batayneh on details of cooperation with ASREN, the discussion covered capacity building, joining and sponsoring ASREN activities and conferences.

On a side issue, ASREN visited the Singapore NREN, SingAREN on Friday 28th March 2014 and had very fruitful meeting with Lee Bu Sung, Francis and Ong Bin Lay who made a presentation about SingAREN and its recent activities and developments.





### **Catania, Italy, April 7th – 11th, 2014**

The CHAIN-REDS project is pleased to announce that a video referring to the Science Gateway Week, one of the CHAIN-REDS dissemination and training success stories is now available for download on the project website. The Science Gateway Week was held in Catania, Italy, on April 7-11, 2014 at the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Catania. The training focused on the Science Gateway deployment and Identity Federation services installation. Representatives of Research Networks from Morocco, Algeria, Jordan as well as scientists and technologists from South Africa and Sweden participated in the training.

The aim of the training was to use the Catania Science Gateway framework deployed and developed in the context of CHAIN-REDS in order to:

- Implement Science Gateways in the above mentioned regions;
- Deploy applications for the Virtual Research Communities (VRC) that have to be supported in these regions; and
- Create identity federations to allow the researchers belonging to these regions to have easy and seamless access to these distributed computing infrastructures.

A similar training, - CHAIN-REDS School for Application Porting to Science Gateways - will take place on June 9-20, 2014 in Catania, Italy.

For more information about the Science Gateway Week held in April (outputs, interviews with participants, etc) visit the CHAIN-REDS website and download the video in (high or low resolution).

## The Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance

**Sao Paulo, Brazil,  
April 24th, 2014**

Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance celebrates a milestone, with consistent definitions for principles of Internet governance and roadmap for future development



of Internet governance, after the two-day meeting in Sao Paulo. Organized in partnership with the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee (CGI.br) and /1Net, the meeting congregated 1,480 stakeholders with active voices, including remote participation, from a diversity of 97 nations.

The “NETmundial Multistakeholder Statement”, kept its final format after a process that started with 188 content contributions submitted by volunteer representatives of 46 countries. During the two-day event, the participants from 97 countries had the opportunity to contribute to the revision of the document through the discussion sessions. The sessions still consider the 1,370 comments made by the public on the outcome document, published on the official website of NETmundial, as well as comments submitted by more than 200 daily viewers who follow the event in real time through the more than 30 remote hubs around the world.

Virgilio Almeida, Chairman of NETmundial, has stated in the closing ceremony of the event: “This meeting is an undeniable proof that inclusiveness has its rewards, resulting in transparent and a democratic spirit towards a common goal. This is a milestone in Internet governance. Governments came together with all sectors to take this first step. The outcome

should be seen as a contribution from a wide range of representatives that will meet in other processes dealing with Internet governance”.

NETmundial stands out for its multistakeholder and collaborative purpose, in which different sectors – such as governments, civil society, private sector, academia and global technical community – gathered to discuss the future of Internet governance, valuing the maintenance of a democratic environment.



## Kick-Off Meeting of an EU Tempus Funded Project on Open Source Software Curricula Enhancement in Universities (OSSCOM)



**Bonn, Germany, April 27th, 2014**

With the participation of Arab and European public and private entities, the Kick-Off Meeting of an EU Tempus Funded Project on Open Source Software Curricula Enhancement (OSSCOM) in Universities in Lebanon and Jordan, took place in Bonn, Germany, April 27th, 2014. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Computer Science at the German-based Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences and was attended by 10 partners from five countries (Germany, Spain, UK, Lebanon and Jordan).

The OSSCOM project has been selected for funding by the European Commission - EACEA (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency). It aims at promoting the use of Open Source Software (OSS) through building capacity, where graduates of universities in Jordan and Lebanon will be equipped with the essential skills in OSS to improve their chances on the job market and enable them to contribute to the diffusion of OSS in key sectors as an alternative solution to proprietary software as well as to enhance their entrepreneurship and ICT innovation capabilities. The German Jordanian University and Lebanese university will serve as centers of Open Source Software to provide support for local companies as well as the society at large in OSS technology solutions.

For more information, visit OSSCOM website: <http://www.osscom.org>



**Dublin, Ireland, May 22nd, 2014**

TNC2014 was the event chosen by ASREN (Arab States Research and Education Network) to announce that the first Points of Presence (PoPs) in the pan-Arab network have been opened, in London and Fujairah, in cooperation with the EUMEDCONNECT3 project.

Yousef Torman (ASREN) explains why he and Ahmed Dabbagh (Khalifa University) chose to disclose the news at TNC:

“At ASREN, we count on TNC as one of the most important venues for networking among experts, researchers, networkers, technologists and scientists from all over the world.

Announcing our first Points of Presence there gives us ultimate publicity to this unique gathering and opens more avenues for partnership and networking with organisations and people of interest.

## TERENA and GÉANT honour research and education networkers with 2014 Community Awards



**Dublin, Ireland, May 22nd, 2014**

TERENA (Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association) and the GÉANT project present Community Awards to teams or individuals who have shared their ideas, expertise and time in collaboration with the research and education (R&E) networking community, recognising that such contributions are often provided voluntarily and through the good will of their employer organisation.

Jan Meijer (UNINETT, NO) and Stefan Winter (RESTENA, LU) received this year's Community Awards following open nominations and selection by a panel of judges. Karel Vietsch (late Secretary General of TERENA) was also, posthumously, awarded.

Dorte Olesen (Technical University of Denmark), a former TERENA president and now chair of the GÉANT NREN Policy Committee, presented the awards on behalf of the judges during the closing plenary session of the TERENA Networking Conference (TNC2014) on Thursday 22 May.

Jan Meijer was lauded for sharing an idea which was discussed in the TERENA task force TF-Storage, chaired by Jan, and then developed into the open-source FileSender software under Jan's leadership.

This simple-to-use, federated, web-based application allows users to share arbitrarily large files with a private audience through a trusted intermediary.

FileSender is now deployed by almost 40 national research and education networks (NRENs), institutions and other organisations around the world. [www.filesender.org](http://www.filesender.org)

Stefan Winter was honoured for services to the development of eduroam – the secure, world-wide roaming access service developed for the international research and education community.

With roles in the GÉANT project and the TERENA Task Force on Mobility and Network Middleware (TF-MNM), Stefan has led standardisation work, striven for federated solutions, and proposed and developed tools such as F-Ticks for statistics collection and CAT, the universal eduroam configuration tool.

Almost 600 institutions have now signed up to CAT, with almost half a million end users who are running a secure configuration that required no effort from them. <https://cat.eduroam.org/>

In May 2013 Karel Vietsch received Dutch royal recognition for his outstanding contribution to research and education networking and the Internet in general, when he was appointed an Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau.

His work had influenced several prominent Internet organisations and initiatives and Karel demonstrated his commitment to the research and education networking community leaving it a legacy in the form of the 'Vietsch Foundation', which aims to help stimulate the community's work in future.

A first public announcement about the existence and aims of the Vietsch Foundation was made during the TNC2014 opening plenary session.

The Community Award judges wished to acknowledge Karel's extraordinary dedication to the community by honouring him posthumously, after he passed away on 23 February 2014.

For further information about the Vietsch Foundation, please contact Valentino Cavalli: [cavalli@terena.org](mailto:cavalli@terena.org)



### **Djibouti, Djibouti City, June 2nd, 2014**

AfREN held its 2014 meeting in Djibouti on 2 June 2014, as part of the Af\* annual meetings and conferences, known as African Internet Summit, with the usual support of the Association of African Universities (AAU).

More than 40 participants attended the meeting, which featured updates from the three regional RENs covering the continent, namely ASREN ([www.asrenorg.net](http://www.asrenorg.net)), the UbuntuNet Alliance ([www.ubuntunet.net](http://www.ubuntunet.net)) and WACREN ([www.wacren.net](http://www.wacren.net)).

The updates showed that despite challenges, NRENs as well as the regional RENs are making good progress. On community and international outreach, knowledge and experience sharing, it was acknowledged that the UbuntuNet Alliance and ASREN have now well established and well-attended annual conferences (UbuntuNet Connect and eAGE); WACREN also organized its first annual conference earlier this year in Lomé, Togo.

Technical presentations covered issues related to capacity building strategies for RENs with the presentation on the WACREN-UbuntuNet Alliance joint African Training Initiative (ATI), to addressing end user needs with the experience sharing from the University of Agriculture,

Abeokuta in Nigeria, to opportunities for setting up regional REN peering points on the continent presented by NSRC and to Africa's involvement in the Global Network Architecture for research and education (GNA), presented by NorduNet.

The presentations triggered lively and interesting discussions, especially on regional REN peering and Africa's involvement in the GNA initiative.

On the latter, it was decided that ASREN, the UbuntuNet Alliance and WACREN will designate representatives who will participate in the periodic online meetings of the GNA technical groups.

This year's AfREN meeting also witnessed the active participation of colleagues from Korea, namely from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), (C National University), Chungnam National University (CNU) and Seoul National University (SNU). Presentations were on APAN, the Asia-Pacific sister organization (done by its Chair), content-centric networking and Future Internet.

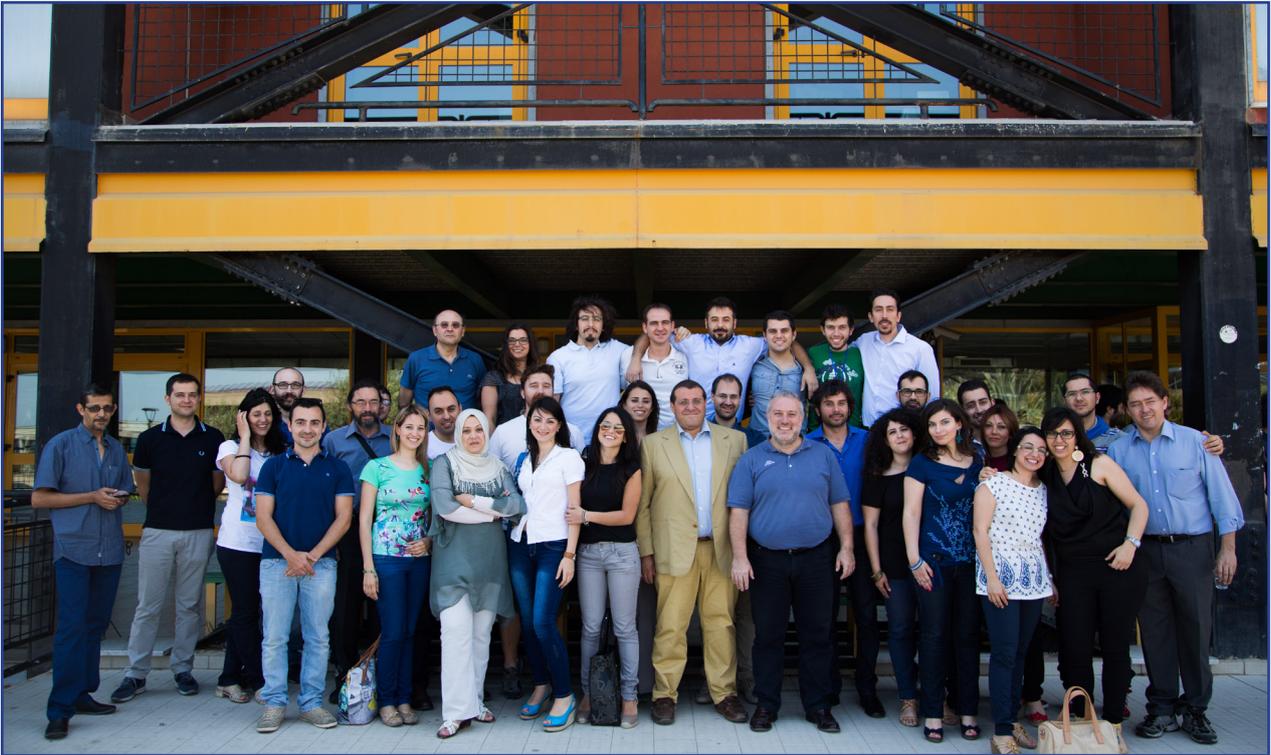
It was resolved that the Africa-Korea collaboration would be pursued and strengthened. AfREN Convener was asked to follow up on this with the Korean colleagues, with the objective of extending this initiative to an Africa-Asia collaboration.

The meeting also acknowledged the participation of ICANN's Vice-President for Stakeholder Engagement, Africa; he called for more involvement of African academia and researchers in the Internet governance process.

At the closing of the meeting, AAU as well as AfNOG and AfriNIC were commended for their continued support. It was suggested and welcomed that AfREN should revert to its 2-day meeting, instead of one day only.

RENs were encouraged to put the annual AfREN meeting in their agenda and to make provision for sponsorship for their members, in order to ensure wide participation in this important event.

## CHAIN-REDS School for Application Porting to Science Gateways2013 excellence



### Catania, Italy, June 9th – 20th, 2014

The CHAIN-REDS project organized a School for Application Porting to Science Gateways held in Catania, Italy, on 9-20 June 2014.

The event was in technical sponsorship with the IEEE TCSC Technical Area on Science Gateways.

The school aimed at increasing the number of scientific applications running on the e-Infrastructures addressed by CHAIN-REDS and integrated in Science Gateways deployed in the regions targeted by the project.

To fulfill the goal of this school, the program, based both on lectures and hands-on practices, covered in-depth the main topics of the Catania Science Gateways Framework and will provide the know-how to integrate applications in Science Gateways implemented with that framework.

More details can be found on the CHAIN-REDS website: [www.chain-project.eu](http://www.chain-project.eu)

## ASREN workshop on Clouds for Research and Education and EUMEDCONNECT3 meeting

**Rome, Italy, June 24th – 27th, 2014**

ASREN in cooperation with IT Synergy (Egypt), GARR Consortium (Italy) EUMEDCONNECT3 project (UK), and CHAIN-REDS project (Italy) organised the “Clouds for Research and Education” workshop, held at GARR Consortium premises in Rome, Italy, on June 24-26, 2014.



The following are the main objectives of this workshop:

- Identify and explore the latest business and technology trends in Cloud Computing.
- Understand the difference between Proprietary and Open Standard based Cloud Solution.
- Understand the importance of Open Standards and Interoperability.
- Assess the potential of Open Source applied to Cloud Computing and explore its Business Model.
- Deep Dive into Cloud Computing through labs and practical experience.

The workshop is designed for managers and professionals working for National Research and Education Networks (NRENs), who need to understand the potential of Cloud Computing and its underlying technology in order to be able to assess its impact into their respective NRENs.

The workshop satisfied the need of these targeted participants by providing them with both the necessary business information about cloud computing and the cloud technical essentials that are the starting point for the professional cloud level and certifications. Moreover, the workshop satisfied the interest of the CHAIN-REDS project in creating cloud infrastructures in harmonization with other cloud installations and cloud services provided at the regional level in Europe and in other regions.

The workshop followed by the EUMEDCONNECT3 – ASREN meeting on June 27th, 2014. The meeting addressed issues related to the progress and the recent developments in the e-Infrastructures in the region. It included a roundtable session led by CHAIN-REDS project with focus on clouds vision and planning.



**Muscat, Oman, December 10th – 11th, 2014**

Under the Patronage of His Highness Sayyid Taimur Bin As'ad Al Said, the Arab States Research and Education Network – ASREN, is happy to announce its fourth annual event **"4th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment - e-AGE 2014"** which will take place in 10-11 December 2014 in Muscat Oman. The platform will be hosted by **The Research Council (TRC)** of Oman. A short concept flyer is attached.

In **e-AGE 2014**, the main theme will be on **"Intercontinental Connectivity of the Pan Arab Network"**. ASREN started concrete steps towards interconnecting researchers and academics across the Arab States by launching its first PoP in London Telicity and is now working with Ankabut to establish the first Arab Education Global Open Exchange in Fujairah.

Work in progress with partners on new PoPs Egypt and the Maghreb region. ASREN is also supporting the development of NRENs in some Arab countries. In e-AGE 2014, ASREN will give special attention and more focus on users and how the e-Infrastructure can support their needs in terms of services and applications.

More sessions will be dedicated to the users to present their research and education activities and then to identify how these users can be better served by NRENs.

Following on from the success of e-AGE in 2011, 2012 and 2013, e-AGE 2014 will include events, workshops, meetings centered on the following themes:

- The 7th Event on Euro-Mediterranean e-Infrastructure
- The 4th annual meeting of ASREN
- AROQA 6th Annual Conference
- EUMEDCONNECT3 Project Meeting
- Technical Workshops on R&E networking (to be announced)

The Research Council is Oman's exclusive research funding body and leader of research development in the country. TRC serves as a focal point and hub dedicated to promoting and supporting research, scientific enquiry, and innovation in the Sultanate of Oman. At the heart of our work is nurturing research talent to power innovation and create economic benefit for our national prosperity.

Established in June 2005, TRC has been founded by Royal Decree No. 54/2005 under the chairmanship of His Highness Sayyid Shihab Bin Tariq Al-Said, adviser to His Majesty the Sultan. This was notably followed in 2010 by Royal Decree No.30/2010 with TRC set to lead the way in drawing up a national plan for scientific research in the Sultanate

As a policy-making body and funding agency, TRC encourages the promotion and application of research, innovation and science to create value that serves business, markets and the wider needs of society. It is our belief that research conducted in Oman should further the public good with commitment to the spread and transfer of knowledge.

As part of its mandate and strategy, TRC provides and enables a sustainable infrastructure that contributes to the emergence of effective national innovation ecology. ICT-based services in general, and an Oman National Research and Education Network (OMREN) in particular, are seen as a central part of this infrastructure.

**Second phase of eduGAIN integration complete. It's now easier than ever to collaborate using GÉANT services!**

eduGAIN has facilitated federated access to the GÉANT project intranet, meaning 300 participants and parts of the wider community can now access using their home identities. This is a good example of how eduGAIN can help with federated access. The GÉANT community can log into the GÉANT intranet using their federated identity, which means one simple set of credentials and improved security.

Having single sign-on (SSO) not only enhances the user experience but streamlines management from the IT side – making it a much more efficient, convenient solution for everyone involved in the project. It is hoped this will encourage more users to actively collaborate using this accessible platform.

Anand Patil, CIO of DANTE and sponsor of the integration project said: "The community has been asking for 'eduGAINising' the GÉANT Intranet for some time now and it has been a European Commission recommendation that all GÉANT services become federated. Finally, this dream is now a reality. It not only benefits the users in terms of Single Sign-On but also reduces the GÉANT IT overheads to manage user accounts. We are planning to federate more GÉANT services in the near future."

Ann Harding, GÉANT SA5 Activity Leader for Multi-Domain Network Services said: "I am very pleased to see eduGAIN being able to help the GÉANT project participants in this way. This was an excellent case of know-how from the wider application services and federated identity community coming together with DANTE IT to enable all participants in GÉANT get the benefits of federated identity.

We in GÉANT are not so very different to many other research communities in our authentication and authorisation requirements, so the experience in this project can benefit our ongoing work with research communities. And of course I'm personally very happy to be able to have one less log-in to manage! " Project participants can find more information in the GÉANT Intranet and eduGAIN User Guide for details on accessing the Intranet via eduGAIN and FAQs, including who to contact in case of any questions or issues.

eduGAIN is the GÉANT interfederation service simplifying access to content, services and resources for the global research and education community. It aims to enable the trustworthy exchange of information related to identity, authentication and authorisation between identity federations.





As the demands of researchers and research projects increase as international collaboration becomes the norm, so does the need for NRENs to provide effective, secure Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructures (AAI).

By offering AAI, NRENs can provide essential value added services so that users can also take advantage of services and facilities offered by other NRENs.

From ubiquitous eduroam® access to advanced cloud computing platforms such as ~Okeanos global, AAI is an essential enabler for collaboration.

### **Benefits across the community**

It is not only individual research users that benefit from AAI. Service Providers can offer their services to a much wider audience making their platforms more cost-effective and Identity Providers can dramatically reduce their workload as they no longer need to maintain identities of temporary or visiting researchers and staff.

With Users, Service Providers and Identity Providers all benefiting from AAI, NRENs, Large International Projects and Institutions need to be positioned to support these requirements.

Yet despite the benefits of AAI, nearly half of all GÉANT partners don't yet have an Identity federation. This is not only restricting the ability of their users to gain access to services but could increase costs within the NREN.

## **FaaS – enabling NRENs to operate an identity federation**

The development of a national Identity federation is not a trivial activity and GÉANT's Federation as a Service (FaaS) task was created specially to help these NRENs and other groups. FaaS will support NRENs in building their Identity federations by providing and hosting federation management tools on behalf of the NREN.

The FaaS provides Identity federation operators with tools to perform the registration of Identity and Service Providers, effective Metadata management and aggregation including integration with eduGAIN, secure Metadata signing and central Discovery Service.

By providing these tools to the NRENs, they will be able to focus on building the Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructure in their region by supporting the development of Service Provider and Identity Provider in member institutions.

**Quote:** "AAI will become one of the key differentiators between NRENs and other network providers and its provision will aid the development of enhanced services to all users" Valter Nordh.

### **How you can benefit from FaaS and help**

Effective AAI can greatly benefit NRENs and is a unique value added service for NRENs to provide. FaaS is inviting NRENs to be at the forefront of this development by taking part in the workshop FaaS is organizing in October 2014, with more information soon to come.

For more information on FaaS, please contact Valter Nordh at [valter.nordh@gu.se](mailto:valter.nordh@gu.se), or Marina Vermezović at [marina@amres.ac.rs](mailto:marina@amres.ac.rs)

# arabterm



## Technical Dictionary

ARABTERM is a quadrilingual technical dictionary, jointly published by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

This Project is carried out by the Bureau of Coordination of Arabization (BCA), in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

In addition to the glossaries in German, English and French, ARABTERM offers the translation of the terms, along with an illustrated definition in Arabic.

This dictionary is freely available for teachers, students, translators, technicians and engineers via the following link: [www.arabterm.org](http://www.arabterm.org).

ARABTERM has recently uploaded two new volumes on Renewable Energies (5500 terms) and on Electrical Engineering (3000 terms), that follow the existing volumes on Water Technology (7700 terms) and on Automotive Engineering (4700 terms), validated at the last Arabization Congress held in Khartoum (Sudan) in November 2013.

According to a study conducted by the project team, this interactive dictionary has facilitated the work on technical documents of 95% of its users.

We invite you to visit our website, also available in mobile version (phones / smart phones / tabs), and we are counting on your cooperation to share this information with your contacts.

For further information, please consult the project sheets on <http://www.arabterm.org/index.php?id=77&L=1>

# CONTACT

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The logo graphic consists of a light blue chevron shape pointing upwards, and a light orange square frame on the right side. The chevron shape is composed of two thick lines meeting at a point. The square frame is also composed of thick lines, with the top and right sides visible.

# ASREN

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