

H.E. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, Chairman, ASREN, Jordan

In his opening speech, HE Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh expressed his sincere appreciation and recognition of the hosts of the conference: the Ministry of higher education and scientific research and Al khwarizim Computing Center. HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh thanked the Tunisian Minister Higher Education, his Excellency Moncef Bin Salem for his patronage and the Minister of Higher Education in Palestine, Dr. Ali Abu Zuhri, for his participation. He also expressed his appreciation to the delegation of the League of Arab States, headed by HE Ambassador Faeqa Al-Saleh, keynote speakers, and representatives of NRENs and international organizations from across the world. Hosting both e-AGE 2013 and AROQA's fifth annual conference is seen as a great support to the host research and education activities and e-infrastructure networking for all the Arab region in Tunis.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his appreciation to the European commission for their continuous support and welcomes high level delegation from Iraq and other Arab countries. An MOU was signed between ASREN and the Ministry of Higher Education in Iraq for supporting the development of a high-speed network infrastructure in Iraq to connect Iraqi universities and research institutions. He also highlighted the growing interest of Arab NRENs for joining ASREN as shareholders and look forward to have all NRENs of Arab countries to become part of ASREN to help support and sustain the development of the Pan-Arab research and e-infrastructure. HE Dr. Abu Ghazaleh has also expressed the hope to see high speed networks with Gigabits bandwidth connecting neighboring countries in the Arab region and to the world regional networks for research and education. It was also elaborated on ASREN setting up its first POP in London for peering and linking to the European research and education network "GEANT", with the support of the EUMEDCONNECT3 project, ISOC, and Cisco as well as technical and operational support of DANTE.

At the end, HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh concluded his speech by saying: "Without high speed networks and dedicated e-infrastructure, advancement of research, innovation and development will not be realized, thanks to all who have contributing to this development".