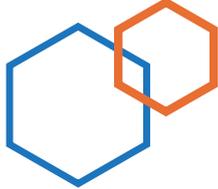


ASREN 

e-AGE18

DECLARATION

The 8th International Platform on Integrating
Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment

2-3 December 2018
Marriott Hotel, Amman, Jordan



Amman - 3 December 2018

Under the patronage of His Excellency Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Jordan and chairmanship of His Excellency Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, the “8th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in A Global Environment: Capacity for Transformation - e-AGE18” has been concluded with more than 150 participants from 30 countries.

The International Platform is considered as a scientific platform organized annually by the Arab States Research and Education Network and was held this year during 2-3 December 2018 in Jordan.

The platform is held annually with an aim to enhance dialogue between experts, researchers and decision makers to cooperate in the preparation and implementation of national and regional e-infrastructure projects as well as to crystallize research and education on important topics such as energy, water, environment and other pressing issues in the Arab region.

The participants commended the role of the Arab States Research and Education Network in providing specialized high-speed networks and regional e-infrastructure services to serve research and education institutions and the wider regional research and education community, and linking them on a global scale.

The Platform sessions and meetings identified priorities for the future focusing on the development of Arab e-infrastructure and services, the coordination with regional and international e-infrastructures, and the strengthening of cooperation in the field of research and education among the Arab countries and with regional and international communities.

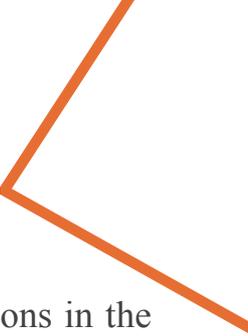
The platform was attended by speakers, decision makers, experts and scientists from all Arab countries, Europe, the United States, Africa, Latin America and Asia. This demonstrates the sustainability of the dialogue held by the Platform towards the development of Arabic research and education networks.

- The participants expressed their appreciation to HE Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Jordan for patronizing the 8th International Platform.
- Appreciation and recognition to the Department of Education and Scientific Research at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States for participation and support.
- Appreciation and recognition to the European Commission for its continued participation and support to the EUMEDCONNECT and AFRICACONNECT projects.
- Appreciation and recognition to the pan-European GÉANT network for its continued support for the development of Arab e-infrastructure.

- Appreciation and recognition to the national research and education networks in Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan, Palestine, Somalia and Iraq the founding members of the Arab Research and Education Network, and the member networks in the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria and Comoros.
- Appreciation and recognition to the regional research and education networks in America and Africa for their continued participation and support.
- Adopting the programs and strategy of the Arab States Research and Education Networks for the next phase, with a focus on establishing e-Infrastructure links between the Arab countries and on enhancing the quality of education.
- Enhancing cooperation with the League of Arab States and Arab countries towards the development of integrated research and education networks as well as the development of quality assurance in education.
- Focusing on ASREN's internet exchange points, operating now in London, and in Fujairah in cooperation with the UAE research and education network- Ankabut, and planning to utilize other internet exchange points in the Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.
- Cooperating with the League of Arab States and with the respective regulatory commissions and ministries to establish the "Arab Connect" for research and education, and setting up high-speed networks at subsidized promotional costs.
- To plan for the e-AGE19 in December 2019 and the location will be determined later.

At the closing of the platform, the following recommendation were declared:

- To accelerate the integration of Arab e-infrastructures and connection with Europe, the United States, Latin America and Africa through the exchange points in London and Fujairah.
- To continue to support research networks and infrastructure development in Arab countries.
- To emphasize the importance of effective participation in the Arab States Research and Education Network and the unified integration of Arab e-infrastructure in order to enhance the role of research and education communities in the Arab world.
- To emphasize the importance of linking Arab research and education networks to their counterparts through developing regional such as in Fujairah, Cairo and Jeddah.
- To provide computational services and resources, including eduroam, edugain, and science gateways.
- To benefit from and build on the success of the EUMEDCONNECT and AFRICACONNECT and other European funded projects to enhance collaboration between Arab and European scientists as promote the development of research that focuses on the use of e-Infrastructures.

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- To encourage and raise funding of donors, research institutions, and organizations in the Arab region, Europe and the world to support the development of pan-Arab network and research infrastructure.
 - To encourage the participation of the private sector and enhance cooperation in research and development of education.

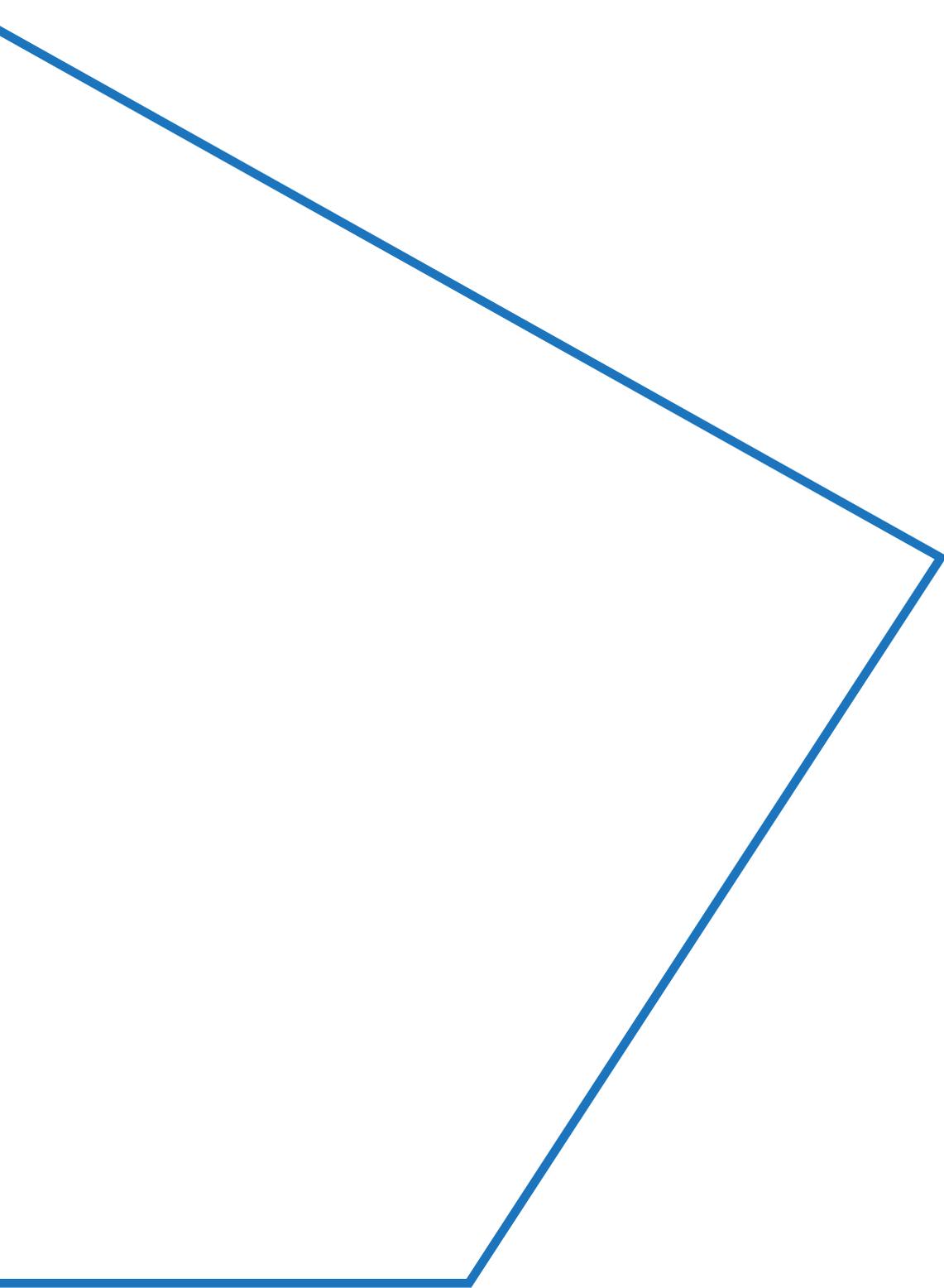
This year's platform witnessed the launch of the connection to the research and education networks in Tunisia and Morocco with ASREN's Point of Presence (PoP) in London, and the international connection between a number of Arab countries and the pan-European GÉANT network with capacities of more than 1 Gbps, and announced the continued support of the European Commission for the development of the AFRICACONNECT Project.

A comprehensive report will be prepared on the outcomes of the platform as well as a proposal for long-term cooperation with the League of Arab States and international organizations and institutions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

Chairman of the Arab States Research and Education Network



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