## H.E. Ali Al-Adeeb, Minister, MOESR, Iraq (Represented by Dr. Mohammed Atiya-Sarag, Director General, Research and Development Directorate)

## Dr. Mohammad started his speech with stressing the importance of this scientific and practical event in terms of proper connectivity and communication with other countries in the Arab world and abroad in order to realize the scientific benefit for researchers and students as well as realizing communication with their counterparts in the world. He also stated that the Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry gives magnificent importance for strategic projects through which it sees essential changes occur in the reality of education in general and scientific research in particular, one of which is the National Strategy for Education (2012-2022) in cooperation with the World Bank and UNESCO.

## He also talked about "Iraq Virtual Scientific Library" which enabled thousands of Iraqi researchers and students to reach many well-known international publishing houses with a pioneering scientific reputation. They also launched the website of accurate Iraqi scientific journals which contains "200" journals. Moreover, Dr. Mohammad talked about the Ministry's achievements of following the electronic pattern in different areas. He also stressed the importance of the existence of an e-infrastructure that is capable of absorbing all electronic services as well as providing them to large numbers of researchers and students, hoping that the understanding with ASREN will be the first sign for a fruitful cooperation in order to create the Iraqi National Research and Education Network through which Iraq will start connecting with the other Arab and international networks.

## At the end of his speech, Dr. Mohammad expressed his certainty that this meeting within this "electronic" scientific congregation will realize the desired goals. Then, he extended his thanks and gratitude to the sister state Tunisia for hosting this conference, and to ASREN for organizing this conference and supporting education and scientific research in the Arab countries.