ASREN

Arab States Research and Education Network

ASREN *Newsletter*
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Call for Papers
The e-AGE18 Conference

The e-AGE conference had established itself as an important venue for networking among experts and scientists. In 2018, e-AGE will be held under the patronage of HE Professor Adel Tweissi, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, in Amman, Jordan during 2-3 December 2018. In e-AGE18, the focus will be on demonstrating successes in using the research and education e-Infrastructures at national, regional and global levels. In short words, e-AGE18 "CAPACITY FOR TRANSFORMATION" as the main theme of the conference.

e-AGE18 will include events, workshops and meetings centered around the following:

» 11th Event on Euro-Mediterranean e-Infrastructure
» 8th Annual Meeting of ASREN
» EUMEDCONNECT3 Project meeting
» AfricaConnect2 Project meeting
» Internet2 Middle East SIG Meetings
» Workshops dedicated for e-Infrastructures users
» Technical Workshops on R&E networking

Moreover, special sessions will be dedicated to specific domains, mainly focusing on experiences in connectivity and e-Infrastructure, applications and services across a variety of scientific domains. It is also important to show how research infrastructure creates tangible benefits to communities and collaborations. It is still critical to demonstrate how research connectivity can promote collaboration and innovation. Different discussions will be stimulated during e-AGE to drive outcomes and concrete results on practical steps towards developing a regional e-Infrastructure.

Authors are invited to submit full papers reporting on their original and unpublished research in e-Infrastructures and computational and data-intensive sciences. All papers will be peer-reviewed and accepted papers will be published in the event proceedings.

Posters are also welcomed, an effective poster presentation is not just a standard research paper stuck to a board. It should summarize your work with graphs and images to tell the story and should use text more sparingly. Featuring a poster at e-AGE will serve as an excellent advertisement for your work, and can act as a great conversation starter with e-AGE participants.

Topics of interest include, but not limited to:

» Scientific computing and data-intensive e-Science in areas related to energy, environment, health, climate, water, agriculture, biology, economy, medicine, as well as in social sciences and humanities.
» Perspectives on NRENs, including challenges, operation, sustainability, funding, governance, business models, security and services.
» Problem-solving environments, Virtual Research Environments, Science Gateways and collaborative tools, applications and services.
» Education and e-Learning Technologies, access to educational resources, repositories, libraries and contents, clouds, grids, parallel and distributed computing, and high performance computing.
» Internet technologies and trends, Internet of Things, Security, SDN and AAIs.

For more details, please visit the conference website at:
http://asrenorg.net/eage18/?q=Page/call-participation

GÉANT Confirms Erik Huizer as CEO

CAMBRIDGE - GÉANT is delighted to confirm Erik Huizer in his role as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) following his appointment in July 2017 on an interim basis.

Christian Grimm, Chair of the Board of Directors commented, "We are very pleased to announce that the GÉANT Board of Directors has unanimously agreed to appoint Erik Huizer as new permanent CEO of GÉANT, effective May 1st 2018. In his time as interim CEO of GÉANT Erik has proven his strong appreciation and support for the value GÉANT provides to the European research and education networking community. We know that GÉANT is facing exciting opportunities in the upcoming years and will need to prepare its future way through a highly dynamic European funding landscape. With these challenges and opportunities ahead, the Board believes Erik will provide the type of leadership that members, staff and the entire European research and education community expect and require. The GÉANT

Board is looking forward to working with Erik and his executive team on a successful future for GÉANT."

Commenting on the appointment, Huizer added, "When I started at GÉANT I was very pleased to find a professional and dedicated organization full with people who are passionate about their jobs and about serving the R&E community. The NREN community, of which GÉANT is part, is a wonderful community to work with. Many different cultures but with a common goal. I am honored to be the CEO of GÉANT and I really look forward to continue working with all the people in this area."

Erik Huizer has a long-standing involvement with the NREN community and took on the role of interim CEO for GÉANT in July 2017. Until then, he was CTO of SURFnet and a member of the GÉANT Association Board of Directors. Before SURFnet, Erik served as Managing Director for ICT at the Netherlands

Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO). Erik has fulfilled various board-level functions of Internet related organizations and for over 30 years has been involved in education and research networking, Internet standardization and Internet governance. For his contributions to the Internet, he was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame in 2014.

An international search process was initiated in the summer of 2017, during which more than 60 candidates have been reviewed with the assistance of the executive search company, Harvey Nash plc.

Source:
https://www.geant.org/News_and_Events/Pages/GEANT-confirms-CEO.aspx

WACREN 2018: from Launching the New WACREN Network to a Play Performing the Relevance of NRENs

The fourth annual WACREN conference held in Togo's capital city Lomé this year engaged its audience through lively debate and conversations. Attracting over 200 participants from 27 countries, the two-day conference (held in English and French) provided an ideal platform for NRENs and stakeholder organizations to share more knowledge on their current projects, challenges, and elaborate on potentials. This was perfectly in line with the WACREN 2018 theme which revolved all around "Unleashing Potentials".

Hosted by TogoRER, the event was formally opened with welcome remarks by Dr. Eyouléki Venant Palanga, TogoRER's coordinator, followed by a series of presentations ranging from best practices being presented through concrete cases to opportunities WACREN offers NRENs in the West and Central African region to get connected regionally as well as globally.

A graceful choir then opened the second part of the day, inviting the attendees to gather in the assembly hall for the official WACREN network launch. A play was performed explaining the importance of NRENs in a nutshell, one of the most convincing statements on the need for NRENs we have seen in a while.

Moving towards the moment of the network launch, the Togolese Minister of Higher Education and Research Prof. Octave Nicoué Broohm gave his opening remarks while showing his enthusiasm towards the new network and the conference so far.

Highlights of WACREN 2018:
» Ane Johnson (Rowan University) and Pascal Hoba (UbuntuNet Alliance) emphasizing the lack of knowledge on how RENs can catalyze development and the full integration of IT for research and education while showcasing results of Eastern and Southern African networks.
» Prof. Miriam Conteh-Morgan (University of Sierra Leone) and Mr. Thomas Songu (SLREN) presenting the development of collaborative capacities for innovative teaching and learning, sharing lessons of the NREN-library consortium ecosystem in Sierra Leone.

» Cathrin Stöver (GÉANT) on 'GÉANT – Tour de Monde' showcasing the impact of international collaboration for global research and education networking, with direct examples of successful international projects like AfricaConnect2.

» Chris Rohrer (UbuntuNet Alliance) on the new African eduroam confederation and how it has more than quadrupled the number of participating NRENs.

» An all-female(!) panel presenting the potentials, challenges and results of NRENs and collaborations.

WACREN18 was preceded by the three-day BGP and Peering workshop attended by 30 participants from seven countries - Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Togo. In addition, collocated meetings of projects such as AfricaConnect2 and NEAAR took place during the conference week.

Source:

https://www.africaconnect2.net/Media_Centre/News/Pages/Fourth_annual_WACREN_conference.aspx

Arab States Research and Education Network
TAG-Org GA Building
46 Abdel Rahim Al-Waked Street, Shmeisani, Amman, Jordan
P.O. Box: 921100 Amman 11192, Jordan

Email: info@asrenorg.net | 🇫 ASREN

asrenorg.net