# ASREN

## Arab States Research and Education Network

## ASREN *Newsletter*

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*"**ASREN** is a non-profit company with limited liability (GmbH) and is officially registered in Germany, under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. The main goal is to connect Arab institutions among themselves and to the globe through high-speed data-communications networks. Such networks will enable sharing and access to a variety of R&E services and applications in addition to utilization of highly sophisticated and technologically advanced computing resources available only at very few institutions in the world."*

### In this issue

## Abu-Ghazaleh acknowledges the support of the European Union to establish high speed networks for research and education



*Amman* – Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), expresses gratitude to the role of the European Union (EU) in supporting the development of high-speed networks across the Mediterranean Arab countries through the EUMEDCONNECT and AFRICACONNECT projects. ASREN acts as regional partner in these projects, which provide financial and technical support for the development of these networks to enhance research collaboration and capacity in the participating Arab countries.

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ASREN has been undertaking the implementation and management of pan-Arab research and education networking with its main PoP (Point of Presence) in London in cooperation with GEANT. ASREN is also collaborating to set up other PoPs in Fujairah in collaboration with Ankabut in the United Arab Emirates and in AlMaadi in collaboration with the Egyptian University Network. The PoPs aim interlink the Arab national research and education networks inside the Arab region and to connect with the European, American, Asian and African research and education networks at the global level. The networks have largely contributed to the research communities and provided scientists with seamless access to educational resources, applications, services, facilities, and repositories.

The funding support by the EU of EUMEDCONNECT since 2004 and AFRICACONNECT project since 2015 has had a great impact in setting up sustainable national research and education networks (NRENs) in Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan and Somalia. ASREN is facilitating the development of NRENs in the remaining Arab countries with a goal to establish a comprehensive pan-Arab e-Infrastructure and interlink with its peers in Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa and Asia. It has also facilitated the implementation of Eduroam, EduGain and Science Gateway in a number of Arab countries through other EC funded projects, including MAGIC, CHAIN, and

EUMEDGRID. Through these projects, ASREN provided tools and mechanisms for enhanced research collaboration not only in the region but also across the world communities.

David West, GEANT project manager said, "The EU's funding has made a vital contribution to building the Information Society within the Mediterranean Arab countries. The EU's long-term approach and a willingness to continue to support R&E collaborations despite the challenges in the region emphasizes the importance of the EUMEDCONNECT and AFRICACONNECT projects continue to play.

# Register now for the perfSONAR workshop

The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), International Networks at Indiana University (IN@IU) and the Moroccan Academic and Research Wide Area Network (MARWAN) invite you to register for their upcoming perfSONAR training workshop to be held in Rabat, Morocco, 15-18, April 2019.

**What is perfSONAR?**

perfSONAR is a network measurement toolkit designed to provide federated coverage of paths, and help to establish end-to-end usage expectations. There are 1000s of perfSONAR instances deployed worldwide, many of which are available for open testing of key measures of network performance. This global infrastructure helps to identify and isolate problems as they happen, making the role of supporting network users easier for engineering teams, and increasing productivity when utilizing network resources.

**Objectives**

By the close of this workshop, participants should be able to:



- Have a decent knowledge of the perfSONAR toolkit and testing methodology
- Install and deploy perfSONAR on their own
- Understand the pSConfig package used for creating pS meshes for persistent testing over time

*For more information and registration:*
*http://www.asrenorg.net/?q=content/asren-perfsonar-workshop*

# ASREN and ITU hold a regional meeting on Building Partnership with the Academia in Cybersecurity

As part of the implementation of the ITU Arab Regional Initiatives adapted in the world Telecommunications Developments Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17), both the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) and the Arab Regional ITU Office in Cairo held the High Level Regional Meeting for Building Partnership with Academia in

the Field of Cybersecurity, back-to-back with ASREN's annual conference e-AGE18, 2-3 December 2018 at the Marriott Hotel Amman.

The meeting was conducted on 4 December 2018, with the attendance of 30 representatives of ITU members, decision makers of the Academia, Ministries of information and communications technologies, regulators, industry, and CIRTs in Arab Countries. One of the objectives for holding the meeting is to establish a partnership between academia sector and other ITU members in the Arab region in order to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs, and to shed light on the importance of creating academic professionals in cybersecurity in the Arab region.

Participants made several presentations and discussed the role of Academia in Enabling an Environment for Building Trust and Security in the Use of ICTs, Cultivating Research and Innovation in Cybersecurity, Challenges and Opportunities in the Arab Cybersecurity Landscape, The role of International Organizations in Emphasizing the Regional and Global Coordination in Cybersecurity.

The meeting was concluded with a roundtable discussions on Mechanism to Strengthen the Cooperation Amongst Academia Entities and Between Them and ITU. It was recommended to define mechanisms for developing a training awareness and develop professional training programs on building confidence in the use of ICTs and cybersecurity issues to bridge the shortage of skills in this area in the region and to create a support network of academic experts to help in the development and implementation of the cybersecurity initiative.

# OMREN holds a regional meeting on cooperation between research and education networks in the Gulf

The Omani Research and Education Network (OMREN) held an open discussion session on the role of the network in supporting the research and education in the Sultanate. This session was held during the Fifth Annual Meeting of The Research Council (TRC) of Oman, which took place in Muscat on 9 December 2019 under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Advisor to His Majesty the Sultan and Chairman of The Research Council.

Dr. Abdulmonem Al Kharusi, OMREN Director, presented the role of OMREN and went through the achievements for the last two years. OMREN now connects 24 member universities, which covers 90% of the universities in Oman. OMREN also launched a set of services that include the virtual scientific library (Masader), OMREN Federation, DigiCert, eduroam and eduGAIN.



Eng. Mohammad Al Ghamdi, MAEEN Manager, provided a detailed presentation on the Saudi Research and education Network (MAEEN), including the current and future services that MAEEN is providing to its member universities. He also emphasized on the importance of cooperation with neighboring NRENs through providing connectivity between these NRENs. Prof. Hadj Bourdoucen, Dean of Engineering at Sultan Qaboos University, spoke about the need of the services provided by OMREN to the universities.

Yousef Torman, Director of the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), was invited to chair the roundtable discussion at the end of the meeting. The roundtable included Dr. Mohammed Al-Abri from Sultan Qaboos University, Dr. Fahem Al-Nuaimi, CEO of Ankabut, Dr. Muataz Al Barwani, Director of HPC at New York University of Abu Dhabi. The roundtable highlighted the importance and necessity of cooperation between NRENs to satisfy the needs of research and education communities in the Gulf by utilizing the Exchange Point in Fujairah to connect to GEANT and Internet2 in cooperation with ASREN.

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