ASREN
Arab States Research and Education Network

ASREN Newsletter
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ASREN to Hold Workshop on Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)

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CAIRO – The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) announced a workshop on Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), which is jointly organized by ASREN, TRANSITS and GÉANT, it will be held at the Cairo, Egypt December 5-6, 2017.

TRANSITS evolved out of a European Commission funded project (IST-2001-39118, July 1, 2002 – September 30, 2005), that aimed at establishing CSIRTs and at addressing the shortage of CSIRT skilled staff. The demand for the training extended beyond the project

and was picked up by GÉANT (formerly TERENA) in creative and financial collaboration with ENISA, FIRST and other like-minded organizations.

Since the inception, TRANSITS has trained over a thousand security professionals in the European region. Many more have benefited from the third party courses organized elsewhere around the world. Over the years, operatives have been trained for commercial, governmental, military and national CSIRTs, as well as those in the research and education sector. A number of participants have gone on to become TRANSITS trainers themselves, passing on their knowledge within their own regions and countries.

This workshop targets new or potential CSIRT personnel who wish to gain a solid understanding of the main aspects of working in an incident handling and response team. It offers experience and expertise in Operational, Organizational, Legal and Technical areas which form knowledge basis for CSIRT personnel.

The workshop offers participants a unique opportunity to mix with their peers and discuss security issues in a secured and trusted environment, whilst being tutored by seasoned experts of the European CSIRT community. The course is open to individuals currently working for a CSIRT or network security related organization, and those with bona-fide interest in establishing a CSIRT. Applications are also welcome from commercial, governmental, law enforcement and military organizations, as well as national research and education networks (NRENs) and research and education institutes.

Typical participants are usually experienced IT professionals with the growing interest and professional need to become system or network security experts. Familiarity with Internet protocols, addresses and port numbers is assumed. The basic expectation is that all participants are aware of security issues involved in connecting computers to the Internet and are committed to using their skills to improve the security of computers and networks. Individuals from other backgrounds and with other interests are welcome to contact the organizers to discuss their suitability for the course.

For more information and registration, please visit:
http://asrenorg.net/?q=content/workshop-computer-security-incident-response-team-csirt-1

Abu-Ghazaleh: ASREN Joins the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) as an Academia Member

Under the support and guidance of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), the Network joined the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) as an Academia Member.

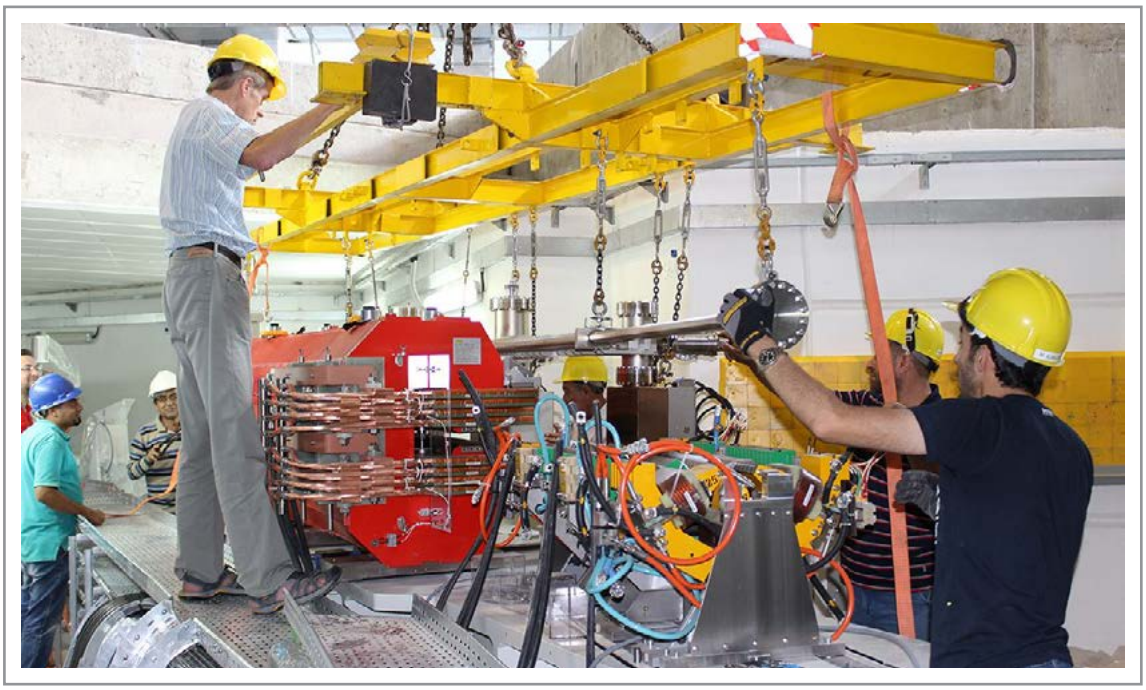
The main reason for joining ITU is for ASREN to become an active member of this very important community and to collaborate with ITU on the development of the Pan Arab Research and Education Network and e-Infrastructures. Joining ITU was the result of close coordinated efforts with the ITU Regional Office in Cairo and other regional and international organizations relating to overcoming the challenges and obstacles in the telecom sector in the Arab region.

ASREN recently began preparations for the ArabConenct Initiative which aims at establishing and developing dedicated research and education networks e-Infrastructures and services in the Arab region at both national and regional levels. This ArabConenct will in turn interconnect these national and regional networks to the international and global research and education networks which will enable research and education communities in the Arab Region to communicate and collaborate with other communities around the world.

“We are confident that our partnership with ITU will be very instrumental in implementing the Arab Conenct Initiative by supporting and adopting this initiative and by overcoming the telecom regulatory and pricing challenges in the region”, said HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of ASREN.

“We value your membership. It is an expression of your commitment to the development of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector for the benefit of world citizens, without exclusion”, said Brahima Sanou, Director Telecommunication Development Bureau at ITU.

Opening SESAME to the world



A Light for Science and Collaboration in the Middle East

The largest scientific project in the Middle East, the SESAME synchrotron radiation facility, was officially unveiled in May 2017. Located in Allan, Jordan, SESAME is made up by physicists from several countries that rarely talk to one another – Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Turkey, Pakistan and Palestine – but whose scientists are determined to collaborate. And colleagues from Germany, France, Italy, UK, Sweden and Spain are supplying expertise, equipment and technical support.

Chosen for its resonance in the region's culture, the name SESAME now works as an acronym for Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East. The heart of the new facility is a particle accelerator, known as a synchrotron, speeding electrons around to make them emit powerful beams of radiation – so-called synchrotron light – that can be used to study the properties of materials ranging from exotic semiconductors to viruses. Applications will include: developing new materials, probing the structure of DNA, penetrating the secrets of chemical compounds, designing pharmaceuticals, performing disease infrared imaging, assessing archaeological artefacts, and measuring soil pollution.

ASREN is providing SESAME with global high-speed connectivity

As of September 2017, one beamline is operational, a second one is scheduled to go live in November and two more over the next two years. Among the subjects likely to be studied in early experiments is pollution in the Jordan River Valley with a view to improving public health in the area, as well as studies aimed at identifying new drugs for cancer therapy, and cultural heritage studies ranging from bioarcheology to investigations of ancient manuscripts.

As SESAME's particle accelerator enters production phase, it is expected to produce thousands of gigabytes every day which will be transferred to HPC centres in and outside the region for analysis, including partners in the EU-funded Virtual Research Environment Vi-SEEM project which supports research communities in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean in need of networking and computational resources to further interdisciplinary collaboration in the fields of Life Sciences, Climatology and Digital Cultural Heritage.

To tackle this data deluge, the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) is providing SESAME with high-speed connectivity and access to the global R&E network fabric via a dedicated link from Amman, Jordan, to the ASREN PoP in London. Initially at 50 Mbps, the link capacity was doubled in September 2017 as part of an agreement between ASREN and JUNet, the Jordanian University Network which has now also been re-connected to the global NREN infrastructure thanks to the EU-funded EUMEDCONNECT3 project.

Arab States Research and Education Network
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University, Bldg, No.46, Abd Al-Raheem Al-Waked Street
Shmeisani, Amman
Tel: +962 6 5100 250

Email: info@asrenorg.net | **ASREN**

asrenorg.net

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