

*“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

- Agenda Released for the e-AGE21 Virtual Conference 1
- ASREN to feature at ESCWA’s DCDF2021 2
- The power of Earth Observation – Interview with Adam Lewis 4

## Agenda Released for the e-AGE21 Virtual Conference



The banner for the e-AGE21 Virtual Conference features the ASREN logo and the text 'e-AGE21 e-Infrastructure for Science & Beyond'. It specifies the event as a 'Virtual Conference' on '13 - 15 December 2021' from '9.00 - 14.00 UTC'. The banner lists the following entities:

- Sponsors:** Internet Society, RIPE NCC
- Host:** A globe icon representing the host organization.
- Partners:** Africa Connect, EUMED connect, GÉANT, TAG.Global
- Funding:** The European Union (indicated by the EU flag and the text 'This event is funded by the European Union').

The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) released the agenda for the e-AGE21 which will be held virtually during 13-15 December 2021.

e-AGE21 will comprise three main events: 1) Main e-AGE21 Conference, 2) Arab Science Cooperation and 3) 1st Arab Symposium on Open Science.

The three-day event will feature 2 keynote speakers and 40 renowned speakers and experts from across the global research and education community all focusing on this year’s theme ‘e-Infrastructure for Science and Beyond’.

The presenters will share their practices and experiences in openness to facilitate sharing of resources in science, research and education in today's unprecedented isolation.

e-AGE21 will discuss the role of open science as a mean to progress the achievement of the UN SDGs through engagement of communities in Science, Research and Education. Openness will include elements of 'Open Access', 'Open Data', 'Open Educational Resources' and 'Open Science Clouds and Platforms'.

The e-AGE21 will also comprise a high-level opening on December 13th featuring ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research and distinguished speakers, with focus on policy messages and high level discussions on supporting the regional and national efforts and activities towards the development of R&E infrastructures and services including science cooperation to achieve the UN SDGs

Our sincere thanks go to those who are kindly supporting this event including: European Union co-funded projects AfricaConnect3 and EUMEDCONNECT3, GÉANT and TAG.Global, Sponsors: Internet Society and RIPE NCC, and Host: Association of Arab Universities.

Registration for the virtual e-AGE21 conference is open and free. More details about the speakers, sessions and registration can be found at the event website:

<http://asrenorg.net/eage21/>

## ASREN to feature at ESCWA's DCDF2021

**DCDF2021**  
مبنى التعاون الرقمي والتنمية  
Digital Cooperation and Development Forum  
Shaping our digital future | رسم مستقبلنا الرقمي

Tuesday, 21 December, 2021 10:00 – 11:15 AM Beirut Time Zoom Link

Shared Prosperity Dignified Life

ARAB HIGH-LEVEL FORUM on WSS and 2030 AGENDA for Sustainable Development

ASREN Arab States Research and Education Network

**Digital Research and Education Infrastructure to Support Science and Achieve the UN-SDGs [Organized by ASREN]**

**Moderator**

**Speakers**

- Mr. Yousef Torman  
Managing Director, for the Arab States, Research and Education Network, (ASREN)
- Mr. Fahem Alnuaimi  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ankabut - UAE
- Mr. Mohamed Al Hajri,  
Infrastructure Manager,  
OMREN, Oman
- Mr. Raed Al Zoubi  
Library Director, Jordan  
University of Science &  
Technology, Jordan
- Mr. Yousif Asfour  
Chief Innovation and  
Transformation Officer  
(CITO), AUB, Lebanon
- Ms. Farida Fassi  
Professor, Mohammed V  
University, Morocco
- Mr. Eriko Porto  
IT Consultant ASREN,  
Brazil

ESCWA is organizing the inaugural edition of the Arab International Digital Cooperation and Development Forum ([DCDF2021](#)) from 13 to 23 December 2021 virtually on Zoom. The event occurs under the One United Nations initiative and within the framework of the Arab States Action Programme on “Advancing Digital Cooperation and Development”, launched by ESCWA in 2020. More information on this event will be made available on ESCWA's website.

The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) will contribute to the event with a session on “Digital Research and Education Infrastructure to Support Science and Achieve the UN-SDGs”. The session will take place (virtually) on Monday, 21 December between 10:00 - 11:15 Beirut Time (UTC+2).

This session, under the Arab WSIS track, will present and discuss the research and education infrastructure and the role of National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) and Regional Research and Education Networks (RRENs) in supporting the developments of research and education in the Arab region and the way forward to better support these communities.

**The session will discuss the following:**

- What are research and education networks and what do they do and why are they critical to development? It will also go through models and practices in deploying these networks;
- Services provided by research and education networks and examples of successful networks from the region;
- Examples on engagement with scientists, researchers and academics with research and education networks from the region to demonstrate how they can benefit from these networks, infrastructures, and services;
- Challenges and obstacles facing the developments of these networks and associated infrastructures and services;
- The future role of research and education networks under the new global challenges, especially the UN-ADGs.

Find out more details on ASREN’s session, in addition to the event agenda at:

<https://dcdcf-2021.unescwa.org/> and register [HERE](#).

Stakeholders are highly encouraged to join the [High-Level DCDF inaugural session](#), scheduled to take place on 14 December, at 12:00 pm Beirut Time.

## The power of Earth Observation – Interview with Adam Lewis



Adam Lewis is the Managing Director of Digital Earth Africa Establishment Team. With his mission and vision, Dr. Lewis is transforming the way spatial data is organised, prepared and analysed, leading to changes in the way satellite images are processed. Dr. Lewis leads the Digital Earth Africa (DE Africa) programme, an open platform, led and governed by Africans, that is working with global partners to make Earth Observation (EO) data free and accessible to the whole of the continent. The data can be used to inform crucial decision-making that will improve lives and contribute towards a more sustainable future for the continent.

The AfricaConnect3 team spoke to Dr. Lewis about the immense power of EO in building a better future for Africa and the critical role that effective networks like NRENS have in making this happen.

Read the full interview on the [AfricaConnect3 website](#).



**Arab States Research and Education Network**

TAGUCI Building  
104 Mecca Street, Um-Uthaina, Amman, Jordan  
P.O. Box: 921100 Amman 11192, Jordan

Email: [info@asrenorg.net](mailto:info@asrenorg.net) |  ASREN |  ASREN

**[asrenorg.net](http://asrenorg.net)**



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union

The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of ASREN and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.