ASREN

Arab States Research and Education Network

ASREN *Newsletter*

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Abu-Ghazaleh: ASREN Accredited as a Partner Organization for the Group on Earth Observations

In this issue

AMMAN – The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) has recently been approved as a Participating Organization for the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) – which includes Member governments of 102 nations, the European Commission, and 103 Participating Organizations (regional and international bodies with a commitment to advance Earth observations (EO)). GEO operates on a global partnership basis to leverage and co-ordinate EO activities to help tackle major global environmental challenges. ASREN will contribute towards GEO's objectives by helping connect existing North African EO centers to the North African research and education networks, thus providing the e-Infrastructure essential for EO data acquisition, processing and distribution.

ASREN will engage with the EO research community to assess and meet its data-communications needs and liaise with governments and other stakeholders in the Arab region.

ASREN's primary objective is to assist the implementation of GEO's African regional initiative AfriGEOSS, which held its first Symposium last April at Victoria Falls and sets out to focus current GEO activities across Africa. AfriGEOSS aims to engage at governmental and scientific levels, and concentrate initially on strengthening EO for food security, and agriculture and sustainable forest management areas. ASREN will work closely with GÉANT - the pan-European research and education network, which is already a GEO Partner, and with WACREN in Western and Central Africa and the UbuntuNet Alliance in Eastern and Southern Africa, to harness their efforts to promote pan-African R&E networking through their AfricaConnect2 project to support the implementation of AfriGEOSS.

H.E. Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of ASREN said: "ASREN is now going beyond connectivity and service provision as we are now working with more global organizations such as Group on Earth Observations to promote collaboration and to enable joint research activities that can benefit from the e-Infrastructures we are establishing jointly with our partners, namely, the AfricaConenct2 Project".

Dr. Barbara J. Ryan, Secretariat Director said: "GEO welcomes ASREN into its global community as we envisage ASREN will advance GEO's coordination with the scientific community, especially in a region that is not yet fully engaged in GEO." She added, "As this decade of GEO calls for greater connection and support with global development issues, the work of the research networks in e-infrastructure will ensure better dissemination of information derived from Earth observations."

ASREN Participates in the 96th Internet Engineering Task Force

BERLIN – The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) participated in the 96th Meeting of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), which took place in Berlin, Germany on the 17th – 22nd of July 2016. The meeting was attended by Executive Director of ASREN Mr. Yousef Torman, representing both ASREN and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) in promoting the Internet in terms of new technologies, operations and governance.
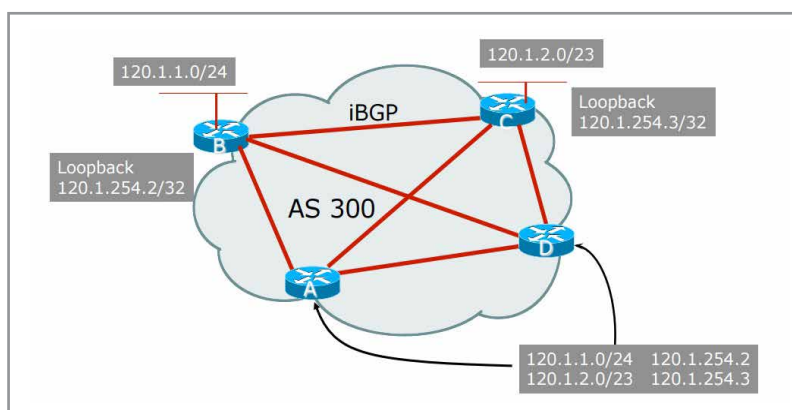
ASREN's participation comes as a result of the cooperation between the Internet Society (ISOC) and the regional research and education networks of the African Continent: ASREN, WACREN and Ubunutnet Alliance in capacity building of the national research and education networks in the region and to encourage more participation in IETF's activities.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chair of ASREN and TAG-Org, said: "We are proud that both ASREN and TAG-Org are leading the deployments of the latest internet technologies, as well as having an active role in Internet Governance in the Arab region and on a global scale."

Dr. Boubakar Barry, CEO of WACREN, Dr. Pascal Hoba, CEO of Ubuntunet and Mr. Yousef Torman met and discussed several issues with experts and key representatives of major Internet Organizations. The main discussion topics included providing more support for developments of Internet technologies, operations and governance in the region. All representatives committed to promote ISOC, IETF and other Internet-related activities for the research and education communities in the region and in working on enhancing participation for these activities.

ASREN is Holding NREN BGP Workshop in Amman during 5-8 September, 2016

AMMAN – The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) is organizing a specialized workshop on "NREN Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)" in cooperation with the Network Startup Resource Center (NSRC) at the University of Oregon in the USA. The workshop will take place at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University, during 5 - 8 September, 2016.

This four-day workshop includes a variety of lectures and hands-on lab work that targets technical staff of organizations who are connected to the National Research and Education Networks (NRENs), or in building or operating a wide-area NREN infrastructure, with international or multi-provider connectivity.

The NREN BGP workshop is specifically designed to give the workshop participants focused knowledge, aiming to empower them with BGP skills required for the configuration and operation of Research and Education networks; whether at national University or National REN level; to R&E backbones.

ASREN invited participation from all the Universities, Research Institutions and NRENs from across the Arab World.

Call for Papers
International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructures in a Global Environment – e-AGE 2016
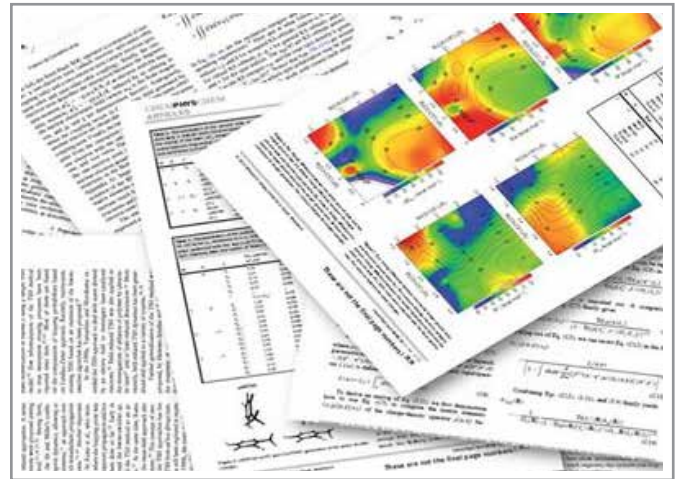## 1-2 December, 2016 – American University of Beirut, Lebanon

AMMAN – Authors are invited to submit papers for presentation at e-AGE 2016, the 6th Annual Conference of the Arab States Research and Education Network for Research and Education Networking. The e-AGE series of conferences have been held for the past five years. e-AGE has become an important venue for networking among experts and scientists from all over the world. This year's conference will take place from 1 to 2 December 2016 in Beirut, Lebanon and will be hosted by the American University of Beirut.

The theme of e-AGE 2016 is "Ubiquity and Cohesiveness of e-Infrastructures"

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of research by October 10 on topics related to:

- Scientific computing and data-intensive e-Science in the scientific 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 and access to research and education resources, repositories, libraries and contents, clouds, grids, parallel and distributed computing, and high performance computing.
- Virtual Research Environments, Internet of Things, Science Gateways, Federation of Identities, and AAI services.
- Visualization and Virtual Reality

For more details, please visit the conference website at:

http://asrenorg.net/eage2016/?q=Page/call-participation