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 announces developments in the Arab Research and Education Networks

Amman: HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of the Arab States Research and education Network (ASREN) has announced the most recent developments in the research and education e-Infrastructure networks at both national and regional levels. Most of the Arab countries have already started developing their national research and education e-Infrastructures by establishing National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) to interconnect research and education institutions so that researchers, academics and students can collaborate, access and share resources, conduct joint research and educational activities.

In order to extend this collaboration across borders, many Arab NRENs have connected their research and education communities to the Arab Regional Research and Education Network and to the reset of the regional and global R&E networks. These countries include KSA, UAE, Oman, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia, Palestine and Jordan.

ASREN has also worked on establishing the Arab regional R&E network through establishing main Points of Presence (PoPs) in London and in some other Arab cities. ASREN is also in contact with the rest of the Arab countries who do not have NREN and is working on supporting them to establish and develop their R&E infrastructures.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of ASREN, said: "We are very glad to see these developments in our region. We highly appreciate the role of governments, universities and research institutions in these countries which have resulted in these remarkable achievements". "We also thank the European Commission for their continuous support and providing co-funding to support the developments in our region through the EUMEDCONNECT3 and AfricaConenct3 Projects since 2005. Special thanks to the European R&E network (GEANT)", Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh added.

The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) was established in 2011 under the umbrella of the League of Arab States (LAS) with funding and support from the European Commission and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Group. ASREN aims to establish and maintain regional research and education e-Infrastructures to enable collaboration and access to services and applications for the Arab R&E communities.

Call for Papers - Deadline extended unill October 31
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. This year e-AGE is technically sponsored by IEEE, and the presented papers will be submitted to the IEEE Xplore digital library. Selected papers will be published in a special issue of the International Journal of Advanced Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (IJAPUC). 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 for relevance, quality and originality of research.

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*

High Level Regional Meeting for Building Partnership with Academia in the Field of Cybersecurity
Amman – Jordan, 4 December 2018

The High Level Regional Meeting for Building Partnership with Academia in the Field of Cybersecurity is to be organized in collaboration with the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), in Amman – Jordan, 4 December 2018, back-to-back with their annual conference e-AGE18, 2-3 December 2018.

The purpose of this meeting is to bring the decision makers of the academia sector and the relevant stakeholders on the same table to create a common understanding, and a possible vision for improving the cybersecurity in the Arab region.

The meeting's main objective is to establish a partnership between Academia Sector and other ITU Members 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.

The specific objects of the ITU High Level Meeting are as follows:
- Facilitate dialogue among the officials from academia and research institutions and all the involved stakeholders in the Arab countries to create a common understanding and vision for improving cybersecurity in the Arab region
- Bring up all academia sector in the Arab region to discuss challenges related to the academic curricula in cybersecurity
- Engage decision makers in Governments and make them aware about the importance of building confidence in the use of ICTs and the need to invest in cybersecurity.
- Explore the priorities for Arab administrations related to cybersecurity
- 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.
- Create a support network of academic experts to help in the development and implementation of the cybersecurity initiative.

ITU members are invited to this meeting, especially officials from the Academia, Ministries of information and communications technologies, regulators, industry, and CIRTs in Arab Countries. In addition, all stakeholders relevant to cybersecurity in the Arab region are also invited.

All the information related to the Meeting and the Online Registration are available on the event website: *https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/ArabStates/Pages/Events/2018/BP/BP.aspx*

WACREN and VCG sign agreement to host WACREN Secretariat

WACREN and Vice Chancellors Ghana (VCG) have signed agreement for hosting the WACREN Secretariat at the VCG Office Complex in Accra. Office space as well as space to host the WACREN Network Operation Center (NOC) have been allocated to WACREN.

Commenting on the event, Boubakar Barry, CEO of WACREN said: "This hosting agreement shows the commitment of VCG and GARNET to contribute to the development of WACREN. It is very timely, as WACREN has started the deployment of its network and is in the process of hiring additional staff.

WACREN is very grateful to VCG as well as to GARNET who facilitated the signing of this agreement"

Peter Kaba, Executive Secretary of VCG also said: "We are honoured and indeed privileged to host WACREN within our premises. As Public Universities tasked with the mandate to produce quality human resources for the development of the nation, the VCG considers the activities of the WACREN which seek to promote the development of National research and Education Networks, a great opportunity for promoting research and collaboration to stimulate research and knowledge creation for the advancement of our community. VCG is committed to supporting initiatives that promote this agenda, and is therefore extremely proud to host the WACREN. Welcome and please feel at home".

Present at the signing ceremony were also Prof. Nii Narku Quaynor, Chairman of WACREN, Mr. Lucas Chigabatia and Mr. Emmanuel Togo of GARNET, and Mr. Michael Melomey of AGEP Consulting and Investment Limited, Facility Managers of the VCG Secretariat.

Source: https://wacren.net/en/news/wacren-and-vcg-sign-agreement-host-wacren-secretariat

Attending UbuntuNet-Connect 2018 in Zanzibar? Then Register now!

Registration has opened for participants wishing to attend the 11th conference of UbuntuNet Alliance, the UbuntuNet-Connect 2018 conference which will be held at the Hotel Verde Zanzibar in Zanzibar, Tanzania on 22-23 November 2018 under the theme: Towards Smart Universities: Services that Matter.

Among other activities, over 30 researchers from around the globe are expected to present

papers bordering on the conference theme and on research and education networking in general during the two-day event.

Participants wishing to attend the conference are required to register online in order to be part of at least 200 delegates expected to grace the premier networking conference which brings together researchers, students, telecommunication operators and regulators and policy makers from the global research and education networking community.

The registration fee for international participants is US$200 while local participants are required to pay a fee of US$100 to register. Payment can be made through bank transfer or cash on registration site. Participants are asked to request for an invoice from the conference organisers once they register.

Delegates to the conference will have a chance to attend a number of pre-conference events that will run from Sunday, 18th November to Wednesday, 21st November 2018. Included in the lineup of the pre-conference events are the NREN engineer training workshops and the Open Library as well the Vice-Chancellors

Workshops. Details about these workshops are available on the conference portal.

Participants to the conference can book accommodation at the conference venue or at Zanzibar Beach Resort located a 20 minute drive away from Hotel Verde Zanzibar.

Registrants are requested to visit the conference portal to check if they require Visa to enter Tanzania and to kick-start the Visa application process in advance if necessary.
All queries regarding the conference can be sent to uc2018@ubuntunet.net.

*Source: https://ubuntunet.net/2018/09/
attending-ubuntunet-connect-2018-in-zanzibar-
then-register-now/*

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