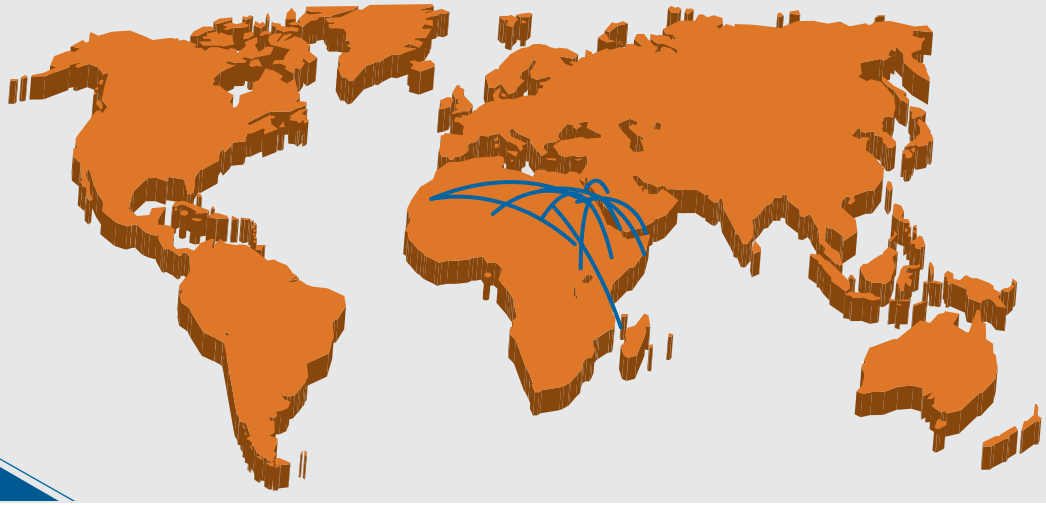
ASREN

Arab States Research and Education Network

المنظمة العربية لشبكات البحث والتعليم



UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

His Highness Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan,

Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research of UAE

2nd International Platform on Integrating Arab e-infrastructure in a Global Environment

e-AGE 2012

"Collaborate towards developing the regional e-Infrastructures"

Zayed University, Convention Center
Dubai Academic City, UAE
12-13 December 2012,
http://eage2012.ASRENOrg.net

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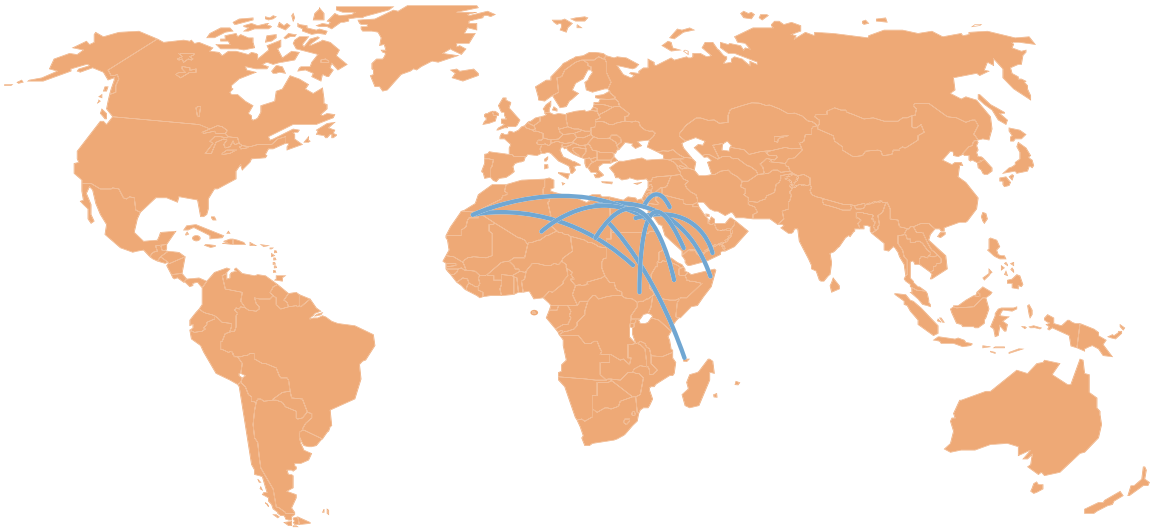

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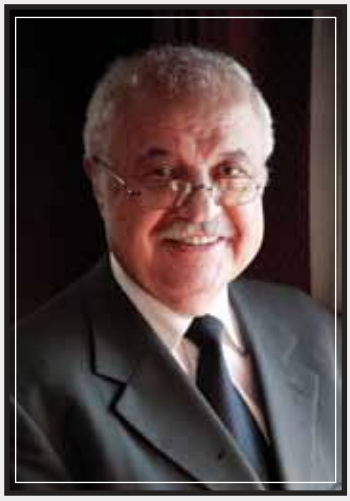
Forward



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman

Arab States Research and Education Network

As we move into an era of change towards investing to advance inter-Arab ICT infrastructure for research and education. Research is no more possible without international outreach. Scientists work in research teams to solve common problems in engineering, environment, health, energy, economy and many others. High-speed communication networks provide powerful means for team collaboration, sharing of resources, and exchange of real-time simulation and data transfer. The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) has been striving to make these networks ready for collaboration among Arab scientists and their peers at the international level. Our goal has been to connect all Arab research and education institutions in a unified network that provides scientists, academics, students, and researchers with state-of-the-art connectivity. Through the unified e-Infrastructure, ASREN will provide its users with services, applications, and means for joint research collaboration. It will also allow for a wider access to educational content and efficient computing facilities. However, financing, political instability, scattered geographical landscape, and lack of expertise are the main challenges. With EUMEDCONNECT funding, EUMEDGrid Support, and other regional initiatives, ASREN will be able to sustain existing networks in the Arab countries.

While still the subject of debate, there is now a growing consensus for the concept of ASREN Arab regional e-Infrastructure with main PoPs (point of presence) possibly originating in Egypt, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Morocco and connecting to the regional networks in Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America. ASREN will continue to join efforts with its European counterparts to bring new technology means and services to the Arab research and education communities and to provide hope to our future scientists towards enhanced educational environments equipped with better tools, connectivity, and services.

ASREN hopes to take advantage of the series of new cables laid in the region to become more economical to connect the Arab national research and education networks to the world and to evolve as a backbone between the East and the West.

Chairman of ASREN
H.E. Dr Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

ASREN Overview

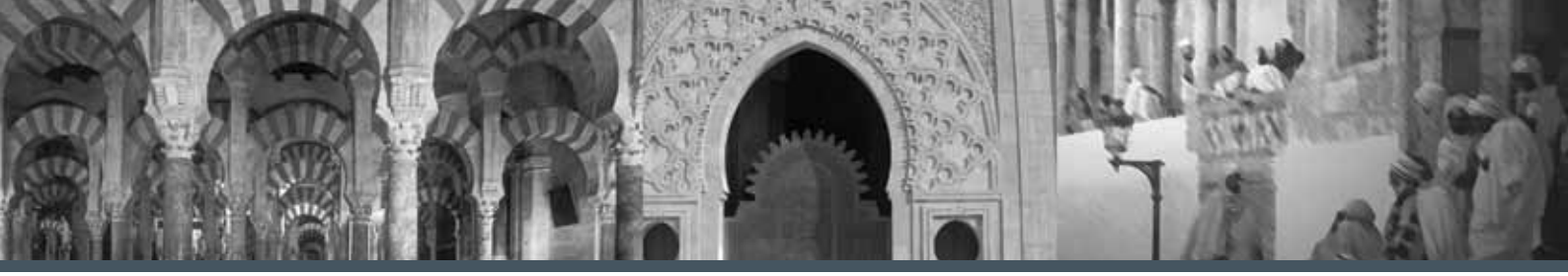
The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) was launched in 2010 under the auspices of the League of Arab States and the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) to connect NRENs across the Arab region. Building on EUMEDCONNECT, ASREN sets out to widen its geographical footprint and to create a pan-Arab R&E network. This strategic step is expected to lead to long-term sustainability of e-Infrastructures in the Mediterranean and the neighbouring Gulf region, potentially serving a population of over 250 million people and ensuring that researchers and academics in the region can continue to participate in world-class research and education activities.

e-AGE 2012

In an era of globalization and modern societal development, the role of technology prevails and digital connectivity has become a key growth element of education, knowledge, and innovation in the new millennium. Today, academic institutions, governments, industries, businesses, and society at large operate and coordinate across borders to meet the demands of globalization and support common socio-economic goals. Information and knowledge represent new globalization phenomena, which pose major connectivity challenges. In the global information economy, education is the enabler and competition is the vehicle for innovation. Languages, cultures, and comparative advantages are combined to yield mutually beneficial outcomes towards leveraging technologies and developing sustainable corporations responsible to the well-being of our societies.

More than half of the region's combined population of around 400 Million people is estimated to be younger than 25 years. This fast growing population places limits and creates challenges for the competitive and economic vitality of the region. Unless effective policies are matched with accelerated structural reforms combined with an up-scaling education and training efforts, our countries are unlikely to capture the vital energy of today's youth and meet their ambitions for more opportunities and inspiration. Educational reforms, advancement of research, and integration of ICT infrastructures are critically needed not only to unlock the region's creative potential but also to accelerate the dawning of sustainable economies for meeting the growing regional challenges in education, environment, energy, water, health, security, and governance.

The use of ICTs and, in particular, e-infrastructures, access to computers and the Internet, are innovative resources that have become recognized as vital tools for research, education and lifelong learning. Social inclusion, research & education, and workplace effectiveness are increasingly dependent on access to knowledge, network participation, and the use of ICT. Educational institutions and learning environments play a key role in providing these tools, training, and knowledge that promote meaningful use of ICTs, given that they enable mass access to connectivity and the use of electronic networks, i.e. e-infrastructures for R&E.



Education systems provide strategic opportunities for reduction of social inequities, and, when integrated with ICTs, they can be a push to overcome the digital divide and to improve educational quality. Therefore, the incorporation of ICT in the education field is not just to offer access, but rather also to promote the effective inclusion of ICT in the teaching-learning process and school management. This requires that both education authorities and teachers acquire new skills, which implies profound changes in the traditional educational culture. Initiatives to increase the use of ICT for development – especially in the education field – carry with them the imperative that technologies are a means, not an end, i.e., a tool for achievement rather than an outcome in and of itself.

Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment is meant to be the launching pad for R&E connectivity and cooperation. It will bring together the ASREN, EUMED, GEANT, AfREN and INTERNET 2 stakeholders and region's foremost innovators, leaders, scientists, and businesses to discuss and debate new models of innovation, integration of R&E networks, policies for sustainable development in education, means of knowledge sharing and dissemination, capacity building programs, and region-wide e- infrastructure deployment to tackle today's crises in climate change, global economy, food and water scarcity, alternative energy, and threatening environmental issues. The forum can lay the foundation for a dream of many of today's leaders towards a global e-infrastructures for R&E based on real life broad inclusiveness beyond any political protocols.

Theme

Following launching and officially registering the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), the e-AGE2011 and building on the success of the previous EUMED Events, and in conjunction with the Internet2 SIG and AfREN, e-AGE2012 is planned to present the status and future opportunities to develop Pan-Arab R&E network integration models and beyond to Europe, the US, and the globe at large. e-AGE2012 will include several regional events and activities that focus on research, education and e-infrastructures:

- The fifth event on Euro-Mediterranean e-infrastructures
- The second annual meeting of ASREN
- CHAIN-REDS kickoff meeting

Moreover special sessions will be dedicated to specific domains, mainly focusing on experiences in connectivity and e-infrastructures, applications and services in the scientific domains, and case studies with impact indicators and measures. It is also important to show how research infrastructure created benefits to communities and collaboration. The theme is to answer some important questions on how to establish research connectivity while defining concrete steps for different parties to contribute. Different discussions will be stimulated during e-AGE to drive outcomes and concrete results on the practical steps towards developing the regional e-infrastructures and proposed architectural solutions.

AGENDA

Wednesday - December 12, 2012

08:30-09:30 *Registration*

09:30-10:30 *Inauguration*

- HH Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al-Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research, UAE
- HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman, ASREN, Jordan
- H.E. Adam Kulach, Head of Delegation of the EU to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, KSA
- HE Dr. Sultan Abu-Orabi, Secretary General, Association of Arab Universities, Jordan
- Mr. Fahem Al Nuaimi, CEO, UAE Advanced Network for Research and Education (Ankabut), UAE

10:30-10:45 *Arab e-Infrastructure Status Report:*

- Salem Alagtash, Chairman's Senior Advisor on ICT and Technology, German Jordanian University, ASREN, J ordan

10:45-11:15 *Coffee Break*

11:15-11:30 *Keynote:*

- John Dyer, "The future landscape for Research and Education Networking", Business and Technology Strategist, TERENA, Netherlands

11:30-13:00 *National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) Developments:*

- Yousef Torman, Managing Director, ASREN, Jordan (Chair)
- Ahmed Dabbagh, "UAE Educational Cloud over ANKABUT", Technology & Services Development Manager, Ankabut, UAE
- Ognjen Prnjat, "Greek Research and Technology Network: Status and Updates", European and Regional e-Infrastructure Manager, GRNET, Greece
- Iman Abu El Maaly, "Sudanese Research and Education Network: Evolution, Challenges and Opportunities", CEO, SudREN, Sudan
- Osama Al-Dosary, "The Value of Internet Exchange Points", Chairman, MENOG, Saudi Arabia
- P.S. Dhekne, The National Knowledge Network (NKN), India
- Fred Baker, Fellow, Cisco Systems - Research & Advanced Development, USA

13:00-14:00 *Lunch Break*

14:00-15:30 *Regional Research and Education Networks (RRENs) Development:*

- David West, EUMEDCONENCT3 Project Manager, DANTE, UK (Chair)
- Mukhtar Ahmed, "Pan Islamic Research and Education Network - PIREN", Deputy Director General, ISESCO, Morocco
- Tiemoman Kone, "Sharing Knowledge in Central and West Africa, WACREN's Perspectives", President of WACREN Board, COTE d'IVOIRE
- Markus Buchhorn, "The Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN)", APAN General Manager & International e-Infrastructure Consultant, Australia

- Matthew Pietz, "Networking MENA Researchers to Translate Information into Action: The Partnership Forum", Director, Regional Partnership on Culture and Development, Cairo
- Boubakar Barry, "African Research and Education Networking - Status and Prospects", Coordinator, Association of African Universities, Ghana

15:30-15:45 *Coffee Break*

15:45-17:15 *Regional Research Opportunities:*

- Robert Klapisch, "ASREN as a Tool to Boost Education and Research Activities in Arab States", President, Sharing Knowledge Foundation, Switzerland. (Chair)
- Danny Powell, "Cyberinfrastructure to Enable Global Collaborations", Executive Director, NCSA, USA
- Jens Wiegand, "LinkSCEEM-2: A Computational Resource for the Development of Computational Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean", Scientific Coordinator, Cyprus Institute, Cyprus
- Fotis Karagiannis, "Cloud Computing for Research and Science in the Horizon 2020: A Hybrid Future", Independent Consultant, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece
- George Loftus, "Updates on Internet2 Initiatives", Associate Vice President for Network Services, Internet2, USA
- Iman Abu El Maaly, "From dreams to achievement", Vice-Chair, UbuntuNet Alliance, Sudan
- Baher Esmat, "Universal Acceptance of Top-Level-Domains", ICANN, Egypt

17:15-17:30 *Closing/Announcement*

18:30 *EMC Welcome Reception*

Thursday - December 13, 2012

09:00-10:00 *Research and Education Applications and Services (1):*

- Mohamed Jemni, "e-Infrastructure and E-accessibility of people with disabilities", General Manager, Khawarizmi Computing Center, Tunisia (Chair)
- Eesa Bastaki, "From Technology to Knowledge Development in UAE", Former CEO, ICT Fund, UAE
- Mustafa Jarrar, "Europe-Palestine Research Cooperation– Ongoing Projects at Sina Institute", Director of Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arabic Technologies, Birzeit University, Palestine
- Danfeng Zhu, "HPC and e-Infrastructure Development in China's High-tech R&D Program", Beihang University, China
- Luis Nuñez, "From e-Infrastructure to VRC", Academic Relations Manager, RedCLARA, Venezuela

10:00-11:00 *Research and Education Applications and Services (2):*

- Ahmed Dabbagh, Technology & Services Development Manager, Ankabut, UAE (Chair)
- Abdulla Al Hefeiti, "UAE Library Consortium (eFADA): Opportunities and Challenges", Library Director, Masdar Institute for Science and Technology, UAE
- Fahar Hayati, "Faculty for the Digital Age", Dean of College of Engineering, Ajman University of Science & Technology, UAE
- Matthew Pietz, "Networking MENA Researchers to Translate Information into Action: The Partnership Forum", Director, Regional Partnership on Culture and Development, USAID, Cairo
- Rusagara Innocent, "The Advantages of E-Learning in Inclusive Education: The Case of WEC-Learn to People with Disability", Lecturer, Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, Rwanda

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-12:45 *e-Infrastructures Sustainability and Funding:*

- Husam Al Olama, Director, National Research Foundation, UAE (Chair)
- Samia Melhem, "Open Data and Open Government Initiatives", Lead ICT Policy Specialist, Chair, e-Development, World Bank, USA
- David West, "Regional Perspectives", EUMEDCONNECT3 Project Manager, DANTE, UK
- Salem Alagtash, Chairman's Senior Advisor on ICT and Technology, ASREN, Jordan
- Ahmed Alosi, "National Research Foundation-Funding Programs", Research Program Manager, NRF, UAE
- George Loftus, Associate Vice President for Network Services, Internet2, USA
- Tiwonge Banda, "e-Infrastructures and Applications in Sub Saharan Africa: Challenges and Opportunities", Head, Finance and Administration, UbuntuNet Alliance, Malawi

12:45-14:00 *Lunch Break*

14:00-15:15 *Round Table: ASREN and networking with the world:*

- Boubakar Barry, Coordinator, Association of African Universities, Ghana (Chair)
- Fahem Al Nuaimi, CEO, Ankabut, UAE
- Federico Ruggieri, INFN and CHAIN – REDS Project Manager, Italy
- John Dyer, Business and Technology Strategist, TERENA, Netherlands
- Jonathon Chapman, Chair, Middle East SIG, Internet2, Qatar
- Yousef Torman, Managing Director, ASREN, Jordan

15:15-15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30-17:00 *CHAIN – REDS:*

- Federico Ruggieri, "CHAIN-REDS Project Overview", INFN and CHAIN – REDS Project Manager, Italy (CHAIR)
- Ognjen Prnjat, "Grids and Clouds for Research & Education", European and Regional e-Infrastructure Manager, GRNET, Greece
- Rafael Mayo-García, "Data Infrastructures in CHAIN-REDS", Researcher, CEIMAT, Spain
- Ludek Matyska, "Identity Federations for Scientific Collaboration", Senior Researcher, CESNET, Masaryk University, Czech Republic
- Roberto Barbera, "Science Gateways", University of Catania and INFN, Italy
- Nikos Manouselis, "Large-Scale (meta)Data Aggregators and Requirements from Research & Education e-Infrastructures: the Case of Agriculture", R&D Director, Agro-Know Technologies, Greece

17:00-17:30 *Remarks, Conclusions, Next Meeting and Event Closing*

Friday - December 14, 2012

Kickoff Meeting for CHAIN-REDs EU Funded FP7 Project (by invitation only)

Venue: Zayed University, Convention Center
Dubai Academic City, UAE
Meeting room: Conference room No. 1

09:30 - 09:45 ***Welcome and presentation of partners*** *15'*

09:45 - 10:15 ***Introduction and WP1*** *30'*

- Speaker: Federico Ruggieri (INFN - Roma Tre)

10:15 - 10:45 ***WP2 – Karine Valin*** *30'*

- Speaker: SIGMA-ORIONIS

10:45-11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00 - 11:30 ***WP3*** *30'*

- Speaker: Ognjen Prnjat (GRNET)

11:30 - 12:00 ***WP4*** *30'*

- Speaker: Rafael Mayo (CIEMAT)

12:00 - 12:30 ***WP5 30'***

- Speaker: Ludek Matyska (CESNET)

12:30 - 13:00 ***Discussion*** *30'*

13:00-14:30 *Lunch Break*

14:30 - 15:00 ***Technical highlights*** *30'*

- Speaker: Roberto Barbera (Univ. of Catania and INFN)

15:00 - 15:30 ***Discussion on detailed plan for the first year*** *30'*

15:30-16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00 - 17:00 *--- 1h0'*

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

HE. Dr.Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) and President of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh School of Business, wide-ranging interests and contributions in professional services, intellectual property, education, knowledge economy, and information technology. Founded in 1972 (TAG-ORG) is an international professional services group, employing over 2000 professionals and operates out of its 71 offices covering the Arab region, Afghanistan, China, India, Pakistan, and Turkey. It has representative offices in Europe and North America and non-exclusive strategic alliance agreements with various networks and individual firms thus enabling it to choose a firm best suited to its clients needs in virtually every country in the world. TAG-Org currently offers a composite range of professional services covering Accounting; External Audit; Internal Audit; Corporate Governance; Taxation; Educational Consultancy; Economic and Strategic studies; Management Advisory Services; Professional and Technical Training; Technology Transfer Project Management; Real Estate Management; Investors and Business Advisory Services; Human Resources and Recruitment Services; E-Government; E-Commerce; E-Education; IT and Security Audit; Web Design; Professional Interpretation and Translation; Website Arabization: Domain Names Registration; ICT Strategic Planning; ERP Consulting Services; IT and Internet Skills Training and Examinations; Intellectual Property News Agency; IP Business and Asset Valuation and Branding Services; IP Registration and Protection; Intellectual Property Renewals; IPR Protection and Management; Legal Services; and Public Offering.

On a glance at Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh's past leadership roles reveals a long and engaging career with business-related international development organisations, and forward-thinking business projects in the Arab world. He quickly rose to a position of regional and international leadership, serving as a member of the board of the International Auditing Practices Committee (IAPC) of the International Federation of Accountants (1987-1990) and as member of the board of the International Accounting Standards Committee (1988-1990). During the same decade, Abu-Ghazaleh formed the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA). He later created the Arab Society for Intellectual Property, Arab Knowledge Management Society, Licensing Executives Society - Arab Region, and other regional organisations providing educational and regulatory support to Arab professions.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh's business empire has developed in parallel with his commitments to Arab socioeconomic development, and the two tracks of development and business and have closely tracked and cross-pollinated each other. He had created a unique hybrid, a for-profit, private firm with a mission statement to "contribute to the socioeconomic development of the Arab world." Abu-Ghazaleh also served on the board of the U.N. Global Compact and chairman of the U.N. Global Alliance for ICT and Development

Adam Kułach

HE Adam Kulach is the Ambassador-Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman,Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, He was the director of Department of Africa & the Middle East in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. in the period 2004-2010 he was the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He got the Master of Political Sciences (International Relations) from State Institute of International Relations, Moscow (Faculty of Oriental Studies); Foreign Service Post-Graduate Studies – Polish Institute of International Affairs,Warsaw; Post-Graduate Studies in Law & Economy of European Communities – University of Warsaw; and Post-Graduate Management Studies – University of Warsaw (Faculty of Management).

Sultan Abu-Orabi

Prof. Sultan Abu-Orabi is an Organic Chemist who obtained his PhD from the University of Michigan, USA. He is President of Yarmouk University, Jordan's second largest public university and President Elect of the Association of Arab Universities which has its headquarters in Amman, Jordan. Prof. Abu-Orabi previously served as President of Irbid National University and Tafila Technical University in Jordan. He is also President of the Jordanian Chemical Society and Secretary General of the Arab Union of Chemists. He was Visiting Professor at Bahrain University and the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Abu-Orabi is Editor-in-Chief of two international chemistry journals, and is member of the Editorial Board of four. He has organized, served on Advisory Boards, and presented lectures at numerous international conferences. He has also received several research fellowships and awards and published over fifty papers throughout his career spanning twenty-six years.

Fahem Al Nuaimi

Fahem Al Nuaimi was appointed Chief Executive Officer of National Research & Education Network (Ankabut) and assumed his duties in December 2011. Fahem is responsible for the overall direction and vision of the Ankabut. For the past 21 years Fahem has enjoyed various roles within the UAE telecommunications industry including network, program management and budgeting. He led the introduction of fiber-to-the-home networking in Etisalat and was the launch director for the latest version of IPTV. He also established the first PMO office for engineering and IT within Etisalat. He most recently served as Vice President of Technology Strategy Planning Etisalat.

Fahem graduated with a Bachelors of Engineering from UAE University in 1990, and an MBA from Sothern New Hampshire University – USA in 2003. He is currently completing his doctorate in strategic management at Asia e University Malaysia

Salem Alagtash

Salem Al-Agtash, got his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1998. He is now the Dean of Computer Engineering and Information Technology School , an associate professor of Computer Engineering at the German Jordanian University and a Senior Advisor on ICT and Technology at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization. Dr. Al-Agtash teaches classes in the fields of computer systems, electrical engineering, systems programming, and robotics at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His research interests are in the areas of electricity markets, agent based energy systems, education, innovation, and industrial linkages and international cooperation.

Beyond his academic work, he is a consultant and advisor on several technology and education related projects at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, European Commission, United Nations, University, and many national and international organizations. During his academic career, he served as a department chair, founding director, founding dean, and currently the managing director of the Arab States Research and Education Network, GmbH, a non-profit institution responsible for developing a sustainable Pan-Arab e-Infrastructure dedicated for research and education and connecting the Arab Universities and research centers. Dr. Al-Agtash is fluent in Arabic, English, and Turkish, has devoted a large portion of his career towards research advancement, developing relevant and quality ICT educational programs, strengthening tri-partite links between university, private sector and government, and building international cooperation. He won several awards and grants and has published more than twenty refereed journal papers and about twenty five conference papers and working reports. He is a prominent speaker in many national and international conferences and meetings

John Dyer

John Dyer is the Business and Technology Strategist at TERENA. He is responsible for strategic issues and for overseeing development of new initiatives. His tasks include supporting the Task-Force on the Management of Service Portfolios (TF-MSP), developing the Compendium of national research and education networks in Europe and creating TERENA's long-term strategy for middleware.

His main interests are looking at the more business oriented aspects of networking including Identity Management, Security, Business Processes, Risk Assessment and Management and making the case for NRENs.

Title of Presentation: The future landscape for Research and Education Networking

Abstract

A Study on the Prospects of the Internet for Research and Education (ASPIRE)
The ASPIRE study was undertaken by four panels of experts coordinated by TERENA as part of the European Commission's GN3 project.

ASPIRE which is intended to inform policy and decision makers, has been exploring:

- Future Internet developments over the next 5-10 years in the context of the research and
- education community.
- Stimulating collaboration and knowledge transfer throughout the network provision and use chain: at the pan-European; national and campus levels.
- Collating and defining best practice that can be widely taken-up in Europe.

The study has focussed on four central themes:

- The adoption of cloud services in the Research & Education community.
- The integration and use of mobile device connectivity into NREN services.
- Middleware and managing data and knowledge in a data rich world.
- The future roles of National Research and Education Networks.

The presentation will review the major findings of the panels and provide a summary of the ASPIRE conclusions and recommendations.

Yousef Torman

Yousef Torman is currently working as Managing Director for the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN). His aim is to establish a pan Arab e-Infrastructure to support the development of research and education in the Arab region. His responsibilities in ASREN include Technology, Networking and Infrastructure. Youssef's main focus is to promote and encourage the use of technology and networks for research and education

Yousef worked also as Executive Director of the Jordanian Universities Network (JUNet), the Jordanian National Research and Education Network. He participated and chaired many national and regional committees and initiatives that focus on research and education infrastructures. He also co-established and managed the new Computer and Information Center at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST); one of the largest Universities in the region with focus on science and technology.

Yousef has played a prominent and key role in the efforts and initiatives that aim to establish a Pan Arab regional e-Infrastructure for scientific research since more than 5 years.

Ahmed Dabbagh

Dr. Ahmed Dabbagh is Manager of Technology & Services Development at the UAE Advanced Network for Research and Education "Ankabut". His main role is to enhance collaboration between the different Higher Education Institutions over UAE, by using the stat-of-the-art technology to connect and communicate and to create a common sense in research and education, like eLearning, eLibrary and Grid Computing. Dr. Dabbagh is leading the UAE initiatives in Grid-Cloud Computing and the Certification Authority. Prior to joining Ankabut, Dr. Dabbagh was the Director of the Academic e-Services Department at Ajman University of Science and Technology, UAE. Dr. Dabbagh was working in France & Germany for several years in the domain of micro-controllers and a wide range of micro-processors architectures ranging from 16 bits up to 64 bit with the very known Semiconductors industry like STMicroelectronics, Siemens, Motorola,…. He is the inventor of several patents in this important field.

Dr. Dabbagh gained a Master of Science "D.E.A." in Images and Signal Processing from the University of Rennes in 1991 and a PhD in Telecommunications from the University of Rennes, France, in 1995.

Title of Presentation: UAE Educational Cloud over ANKABUT

Abstract:

United Arab Emirates - UAE's leading universities formed a dedicated research and education network within the country named "Ankabut". Ankabut caters for the regional educational and research needs, offering great improvements in how research is conducted, as well as improving the teaching and learning processes. It also provides collaboration and sharing of resources. It links for international collaboration with other research network such as the US Internet2 and the European GEANT.

The available network bandwidth at Ankabut is 155.52Mbit/s international link and interconnects over 56 UAE university Campuses with a 10G backbone and 1G access links. It provides access via its advanced 6 Core routers (10Gb) backbone and 56 access routers (1Gb). This connects to a High Performance Computing Cluster of at least 10 TFlops at Khalifa University. Ankabut is a host of at least 60-core CPU running gLite middleware for Grid Computing and a 64 Cores for a High Performance Computing Cluster of at least 1.2 TFlops over the Cloud.

Ankabut has a 5 years plan of the community services, and now is planning to build the UAE Educational Cloud. Ankabut is offering All types of Network services adding to it as Web Hosting, DNS, NTP Videoconferencing by default to its members.

It provides a closed community network that allows the transfer of real-time services such as converged IM, voice and video communication, non-real time services such as e-learning, email, library interconnect, off-site disaster recovery, global federated single-sign-on and Wi-Fi networking to name a few. eFADA, the UAE Library Consortium is under the Operation Management of Ankabut. The network is funded by the ICT Fund and Khalifa University jointly.

Ognjen Prnjat

Dr. Ognjen Prnjat holds the position of European and Regional eInfrastructure manager in the Greek Research and Technology Network, where he is acting as the coordinator of the DG-INFSO HP-SEE project (High-Performance Computing Infrastructure for South East Europe's Research Communities), and is strongly involved in the global CHAIN-REDS project. In these roles he is responsible for organizing various aspects of electronic infrastructures in the SEE region and beyond, and their sustainability and seamless integration in pan-European eScience infrastructure. Ognjen just finished coordinating the DG-RTD SEERA-EI (South East European Research Area for e-Infrastructures) project, which brought together relevant Ministries from 10 countries in the SEE region in common strategy planning and joint programming in the area of electronic infrastructures. Ognjen has coordinated 3 phases of the SEE-GRID series of projects, which built the regional Grid infrastructure, empowered user communities, established National Grid Initiatives, and joined the SEE region in European Grid Infrastructure.

Previously Ognjen was with the Department of Electronic and Electrical Eng., University College London, where as a Research Fellow he was leading technical and project management aspects of a number of EC ACTS/IST and UK EPSRC projects in diverse fields of computing and telecoms. He holds a Bachelor of Eng. Degree in Electronics and Electrical Eng. (First Class Honours) from University of Surrey, UK, 1995; MSc (Distinction), 1996, from University College London; and Ph.D. in Telecoms from UCL, 2001.

Title of Presentation 1: "Greek Research and Technology network: status and updates" (within the NREN session)

Abstract:

Greek Research and Technology network, its mission and vision will be presented. The status in terms of networking and computing services will be given. Special focus will be on the latest developments in cloud provisioning for Research and Education Community, as well as the upcoming high-performance computing developments.

Title of Presentation 2: "Grids and Clouds for Research & Education" (within the CHAIN session)

Abstract:

CHAIN-REDS builds on the work of CHAIN project by expanding the technologies of interest from grids to also clouds and High-Performance computing. This presentation will start by introducing best practices for Grid regional organization, and will then give a case study on development of cloud services for NRENs, as well as examples of national and regional approaches to HPC provisioning. These case studies are expected to be used as examples for best practices to be promoted on the global level by the CHAIN-REDS project, which kicks off in December 2012.

Iman Abu El Maaly

Iman Abdelrahman received her B.Sc. in Electronics and Telecommunication, From Cairo University, Egypt (1982). She obtained her M.Sc. in (1994) and her Ph.D. in Digital Signal Processing from the University of Khartoum (1998). She worked as Telecommunication Engineer at the Operation and Maintenance Department of Sudan Telecommunication Public Corporation (1982 -1994), and worked as first Planner at the Planning Department of Sudatel Company in 1994. She joined the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Khartoum (1999-2006). Iman Abdelrahman was the manager of the Sudanese Universities Virtual Library project (2004-2006). She holds the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Sudanese Research & Education Network (2006 to present). She is the Deputy Chair and member of the Board of Directors of UbuntuNet Alliance (2009 to present). She is married and has a girl and two boys.

Title of Presentation: Sudanese Research and Education Network: Evolution, Challenges and Opportunities

Abstract:

The Sudanese Research and Education Network (SudREN) is the national research and education network in Sudan. This presentation will provide an overview of SudREN and will review its progress in terms of governance, number of members, bandwidth and its international activities. Challenges and opportunities facing SudREN will be presented and illustrated.

SudREN aims to interconnect all research and education institutions in Sudan by setting up a cost effective and sustainable network with high speed access to the Internet and to the global research and education network. SudREN also provides variety of services including access to e-resources, a Unified Library System, video conferencing, grid computing and technical training.

SudREN was a project founded in 2004 at the Ministry of Higher Education. It is now an NGO organization with a Board of Directors and a full time staff. Started with 27 public universities, the network now connects more than 40 public and private researches and education institutions distributed in all states of Sudan. Started in 2004 with Frame Relay technology and a total Internet bandwidth of 4 Mbps, the core network now is fiber-based with 3 STM-1s. The band width for Internet service is two STM-1s in addition to an STM-1 capacity to UbuntuNet Alliance router in London connecting SudREN to GEANT.

In terms of its international activities, SudREN joined the UA in 2007, and since then it has been participating in all of its activities. In 2010, SudREN participated in the launching meeting of ASREN in Cairo, and became member and share holder in 2012. In 2011, SudREN became partner of the AfricaConnect project.

Osama Al-Dosary

Osama, formally a Consultant at Cisco Systems, is currently an Independent ICT Consultant. He also serves as the Chair of the Middle East Network Operators Group (MENOG), which is a volunteering group dedicated to the education and raising awareness of Internet best practices. Additionally he serves in the RIPE Program Committee. He has a Master's degree in Computer Networks from the University of Southern California. He has over 14 years of industry experience across various roles in the field of Computer Networking and Communications. The roles he has undertaken during his career have ranged from Business Development; Research and Development; Network Engineering and Administration; System Administration; Service Provider Network Operations and Network Planning; to Technical Marketing. Osama is also affiliated with many industry institutes and associations such as the IEEE (Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers); ISOC (Internet Society); APIA (Asia Pacific Internet Association); COMPSOC (Computer Society); SANOF (Saudi Arabian Network Operators Forum)

Title of Presentation: The Value of Internet Exchange Points

Abstract:

This talk briefly explains how Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) are formed. Then, talk about the different benefits that an IXP can give in reducing the overall cost and performance of the Internet. Additionally it will look at how it can improve the local Internet economy among other benefits

Fred Baker

Fred Baker has been involved in data communications since 1978 and the development of the Internet since the 1980's. He participated in early development of IEEE 802.1d switching and IP routing. He has served as the Chair of the Internet Engineering Task Force, chaired several working groups, and written or edited numerous RFCs. He now chairs the IETF's IPv6 Operations Working Group, working with the operational community on IPv6 deployment issues.

He also serves on the Architecture Committee of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP) and contributes to the Broadband Internet Technical Advisory Group (BITAG). At Cisco, he works with researchers within the company, and with university researchers outside, on various projects. He also advises management and technologists on technical direction.

David West

David West is the project manager at DANTE for the regional network projects EUMEDCONNECT2, TEIN3 and CAREN in the southern Mediterranean rim, Asia-Pacific and Central Asia, respectively. Since its inception he has lead and managed the EUMEDCONNECT programme, which has provided a regional research and education network for North African and Middle Eastern countries since 2004. He joined DANTE in 2001, after spending 15 years at BT where he was a senior manager responsible for a number of international product and business development programmes.

Mr West has extensive experience in the telecommunications field of managing and supporting new projects, and in establishing supplier and partner relationships. He is educated to postgraduate degree level and spent the earlier part of his career in the UK urban development industry.

Title of Presentation: Regional Perspectives

Abstract:

Regional research and education networks have been established or are being developed in most world regions. The presentation will review the status of the regional R&E networks including their approaches to sustainability. The experiences of other regions in terms of such factors as funding and organisational development will be contrasted, and some lessons will be suggested for the development of R&E within the Arab region.

Mukhtar Ahmed

Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed has been Deputy Director General, ISESCO since Feb 2011. With a Bachelors & Masters of Science from University of Agriculture, Faisalabad Pakistan and Master in Business Administration & PhD from University of California, Riverside, USA have over Over 25 years of educational development and management experience at national and international level: including teaching, research, academic administration, policy development, linking educational research to industry / commercialization, introducing entrepreneurial approaches to education and a diverse range of educational development programs. His distinguished career enriched with diverse Academic, Research and Administrative Experience both in public and private sectors of higher education in Pakistan. worked with numerous educational and other institutions in different capacities at national and international levels as Lecturer, Associate Professor, Professor, Chairman/ Head of Departments, Dean, Consultant, Coordinator, Project Director, Director Student Affairs, Director Campus, Rector, Acting Executive Director HEC, Member (Operations and Planning) HEC, and Deputy Director General, ISESCO etc.

As Deputy Director General, ISESCO Dr. Ahmed is responsible for the Directorates of Education, Science, Culture & Communication, ICPSR, CPID (Planning and Strategic Division) and Regional centers. Pursuing ISESCO's agenda in all OIC conferences, conventions, including Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and also various ministerial conferences in specified various areas of ISESCO's mandate. Responsible for preparing short-term and long-term programs including three year action plans for the ISESCO. He is also the Editor-in-Chief, ISESCO Journal of Science and Technology.

Title of presentation: Pan Islamic Research and Education Network

Abstract:
Infrastructure in Islamic countries is a weak link in their development and prosperity of the people as a whole. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure is not an exception. For this reason, having RENs in academic sector can play a very important role in overcoming these challenges. Information sharing for research and education is also a perceived benefit from these RENs which can trigger effective collaboration in these areas aimed at innovating existing processes and creating new knowledge.

In March 2012 ISESCO hosted the first meeting of country coordinators for the establishment of the Pan-Islamic Research and Education Network (PIREN). PIREN designated to facilitate connecting Information and Communication Technology infrastructures between Islamic Countries; improve connectivity among research and education communities between Islamic Countries and enhance exchanges and cooperation between the research and education. the full efforts toward the implementation of PIREN will be discussed in details.

Tiemoman Kone

Professor Tiemoman KONE got his PhD in computer science in 1993 at University Paris 12 in France. He have been involved in various ICT activities in West Africa. He is actualy the Dean of Mathematic Research Institut of Felix Houphouet-Boigny University in Cote d'Ivoire.
In March 201, Professor Tiemoman KONE was elected as President of Board of WACREN (West and Central African Research and Education Network).

Title of Presentation: Sharing knowledge in Central and West Africa, WACREN's perspectives.
Abstract:
WACREN is the West and Central African Research and Education Network registered in Ghana in August 2010 as a "non-profit association". It is a regional network for sharing knowledge and promotion of establishment of interconnections between NRENs. Starting with 2 NREN in April 2011, WACREN has currently 8 established NREN members and one Network Operations Center (NOC) of WACREN. Through his partnership with RENATER (french NREN) WACREN is working to connect his NOC to RENATER and then GIANT. WACREN is working with UNESCO to support Higher Education reform in 8 countries in West Africa. One university by country will be interconnected to others.

Markus Buchhorn

Based in Australia, Dr Markus Buchhorn is a former astrophysicist, a former IT geek, a former University IT Director at one of Australia's largest research Universities (ANU), and a former Director of Services at a large state e-Research partnership involving ten universities. He has been actively involved in the application of ICT to research and education for over twenty years, across many local, state and national initiatives and now works as an advisor for multiple such projects across Australia and overseas. He has a strong focus on user community needs and requirements, as well as good governance, to guide technology planning. He was also deeply involved in the establishment and growth of APAN over its first ten years, and has recently returned to APAN to become its General Manager.

Title of Presentation: The Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN)
Abstract:
The Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) is an ongoing, incorporated, partnership of over seventeen countries, spanning more than half the world's population. It was formed over 15 years ago to foster the development of higher-capacity network links between national RENs within the region, and especially importantly to support the use of these network links by research and education communities from all disciplines. These disciplines range from agriculture and disaster management to e-health, e-culture and various "e-Research"/"cyber-infrastructure" technology groups. APAN also works closely with many individual institutions, organisations and communities across the region, with industry partners, and especially closely with REN activities in North America and Europe to ensure coherent global connectivity for research and education.

Matthew Pietz

Matthew Pietz is the Director of the Regional Partnership on Culture and Development, based in Cairo, Egypt. He has worked in the international development sphere for 10 years, and was previously the Director of the Initiating Positive Change Program in Kosovo. Mr. Pietz's areas of interest include civil society, rule of law, and ensuring that policy and development decisions are based on what works.

Title of presentation: "Networking MENA Researchers to Translate Information into Action: the Partnership Forum"

Abstract:

The USAID-funded Regional Partnership on Culture and Development is a program based in Cairo, Egypt and with staff in six other countries (Lebanon, Morocco, Jordan, Palestine, Iraq and Yemen) that works to improve the culture of information sharing in the Middle East North Africa Region. The program does this through the Partnership Forum, a network of 145 research organizations in the MENA region, all of whom produce high-quality, actionable research on democracy & governance, youth, and natural resource management. The Partnership Forum links MENA researchers through in-person regional conferences, virtual discussions of cutting edge research ("webinars"), and national-level workshops; and also provides free translation of members' research, grants, and exciting opportunities for collaboration. The Forum aims promote the free exchange of ideas and the use of evidence to inform policies and development efforts, so the lives of all citizens in the region may be improved.

Boubakar Barry

Boubakar Barry is Coordinator of the Research and Education Networking Unit at the Association of African Universities (AAU). Prior to joining the AAU in 2006, he was Director of the Computer Centre of Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) in Senegal . He has been lecturing electronics and computer networks at UCAD's Faculty of Science and Technology.

B. Barry holds a MSc and a PhD in Nuclear Physics, with specialization in Nuclear Electronics from the Technical University of Dresden, Germany.

Title of presentation: African research and education networking - Status and prospects.
Abstract:
For a couple of years now and despite several challenges, research and education networking is high on the agenda of several African countries.
The presentation will give the history of research and education networking in Africa and will highlight initiatives that have catalyzed the development of RENs in Africa. The present status of these initiatives will be presented and prospects discussed.
The presentation will focus on regional networks such as the UbuntuNet Alliance, the West and Central Research and Education Network (WACREN) , the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) and EUMEDCONNECT; activities of the Association of African Universities (AAU) in the field of research and education networking will also be presented.

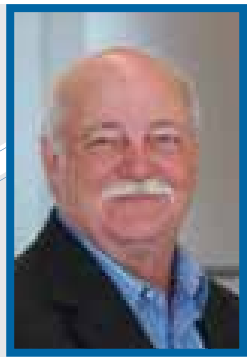
Robert Klapisch

Robert Klapisch (PhD), a French physicist, was Director of Research at CERN (1981-1987) and adviser (1989 to1993) to the Director General Carlo Rubbia (Nobel Laureate 1984). He co-authored with Rubbia the proposal for the Energy Amplifier (a.k.a. "Rubbiatron"), a new approach at nuclear energy (1993-1997).
In 2002, he was appointed by President Chirac to the Committee preparing the "Charte de l'Environnement' that has since been voted to be an addendum to the French Constitution.

As President of the French Association for the Advancement of Science (2000 to 2003), he advocated a North-South Scientific Dialogue and started in 2004 the "Sharing Knowledge" series of conferences. This led him to set up in 2006 a dedicated "Sharing Knowledge Foundation" ‹ www.sharing-knowledge.org› which he chairs. The Sharing Knowledge Foundation (SKF) aims at encouraging a dialogue between scientists coming from Europe and those from Less Developed Countries from the Mediterranean shores and the African Continent. The goal is to act towards the realization of concrete projects contributing to the reduction of disparities and imbalances between nations. In particular, SKF considers Broadband Internet and advanced forms such as Computation Grids as the tool of choice for the development of Centres of Scientific excellence emerging on the African Continent and the Middle East and for their integration into the international arena.
President Sarkozy promoted him Officier de la Legion d'Honneur in 2007.

Title of Presentation: ASREN as a tool to boost Education and Research activities in Arab states
Abstract:
After Ubuntunet and Wacren, the now well established ASREN is an efficient tool to enhance Research and Education Activities in Arab states.
However this is only a tool and we should not lose sight of the more long term goal. Regarding Research, the key to the success, if we take Morocco as an example is the remarquable participation in the LHC experiment which is going to be upgraded due to the gift of servers by CERN. Concerning Education, the outstanding example is Jordan which has linked all its universities witha high bandwidth link.
But the long term goal is to ring Education and Research in Arab States to the same level as those in developed countries. We will discuss what other measures should be taken to complete the task in the 20 years to come.

Danny Powell



Danny Powell is the Executive Director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His interests include the management of large, interdisciplinary, inter-institutional, collaborative academic research and development programs, making use of computational, data and information technology resources. He worked at Rice University from 1987 – 2001, where together with Dr. Ken Kennedy, he was responsible for creating and managing three major, national computational science collaborations - an NSF-funded Center for Research on Parallel Computation (CRPC); the multiple source funded Computer and Information Technology Institute (CITI); and the DARPA-funded Los Alamos Computer Science Institute (LACSI).

In 2001, he moved to NCSA where he became its Executive Director. He is currently on the Board of Directors (2009-) for the LSST Corporation (a non-profit organization overseeing the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope project). He is also a founding member and on the Steering Committee (2007 -) for the Advanced Research and Technology Collaboratory for the Americas (ARTCA), an organization formed to support and guide effective collaboration between universities, research centers, and industry in the interest of human and economic growth across South/Central/North America.

Title of presentation: Cyber infrastructure to Enable Global Collaborations

Abstract:
Researchers, educators, and industrial enterprises all over the world are addressing many of the same key issues and problems. And the complexity of these problems are increasing rapidly - as is the complexity of the cyber resources and tools we have been developing to find solutions to these problems. This trend will continue and likely accelerate in the foreseeable future.

More and more, it is becoming the case that the world needs to come together to establish interoperable cyberinfrastructure, allowing different perspectives and areas of expertise to be synthesized for jointly tackling the problems that are not separated by national borders, cultural differences, and disciplinary foci (e.g., public health, emergency management, environmental management, other key areas).

Cyberinfrastructure resources and services over expansive and high-speed networks need to be built and evolved to empower open international collaborations, which will play increasingly important roles in resolving the most challenging problems facing our world and society. I will mention some of the activities NCSA (National Center for Supercomputing Applications) is engaged in with other groups in the US and around the world.

Jens Wiegand

Scientific Project Coordinator, Computation-based Science and Technology Research Center (CaSToRC), The Cyprus Institute. Jens received his Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Engineering Science from Christ Church, University of Oxford, after receiving a Dipl-Ing. in Mechanical Engineering from TU-Dresden. Along his academic career, Jens was actively involved in research related to material behaviour at high strain rates commonly observed during Impact loading. Focus of his research was on lightweight hybrid material systems in general and composite materials in particular. He has held a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Oxford and was research fellow at Exeter College Oxford. Prior to joining CaSToRC at CyI, Jens held an executive role in the establishment and development of the Impact Engineering Laboratory at Oxford. In his function as Engineering Science Research Fellow and Projects Portfolio Coordinator, he led project acquisition and implementation for government and industry funded projects. Jens joined CyI as Scientific Project Coordinator for CaSToRC Research. In this function, he has responsibility for the management and oversight of the implementation of CaSToRC research projects and the organization of international training and dissemination events associated with these projects. Additionally, Jens supports institute research scientists and faculty in the development of their research and project portfolio.

Title of Presentation: LinkSCEEM-2: A computational resource for the development of Computational Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean

Abstract:

The LinkSCEEM-2 project aims at the establishment of a High Performance Computing (HPC) eco-system in the Eastern Mediterranean region by interlinking and coordinating regional compute, storage and visualization resources to form an integrated e-infrastructure. The main project objective is to enable scientific research in the region by engaging and supporting research communities with an initial emphasis in the fields of climate research, digital cultural heritage and synchrotron applications. To achieve its mission, the project is linking e-resources, provides user support and training, carries out targeted networking activities, and develops and implements a well-structured HPC resource allocation mechanism. LinkSCEEM-2 adopts a three-fold approach structured as follows:

- Optimally integrate computational resources contributed by HPC centers in the Eastern Mediterranean region
- Create user support and training programs, in parallel to an active networking process, that will engage and integrate research communities and enable scientists in the region to utilize HPC for addressing complex scientific and engineering problems
- Develop a subset of the HPC relevant research topics, namely climate science, cultural heritage and synchrotron applications, that are of particular relevance to region

Two years into the project, the LinkSCEEM-2 consortium has successfully established an integrated regional e-infrastructure, which is open to regional users with only criterion scientific merit. A regional training program is underway to provide the skill sets required for the use of HPC and to enhance awareness of available scientific HPC resources. This, in junction with an extensive online user support and training environment, is already contributing towards the emergence of a regional user community.

The LinkSCEEM-2 project has received funding from the European Community's seventh framework programme FP7 (2007-2013), Capacities Research Infrastructure, INFRA-2010-1.2.3 Virtual Research Communities, Combination of Collaborative Project and Coordination and Support Actions (CP-CSA) under grant agreement no RI-261600.

Fotis Karayannis

Dr. Fotis Karayannis has 18 years of experience in the ICT research, focusing mainly in Research Networking and Computing e-Infrastructures. He received his PhD in 1998 in the fields of Integrated Communications and Management of Broadband Networks from NTUA, Greece. He participated in multiple European research projects working for commercial or research entities such as now OTEPlus, GRNET, CERN, CESNET, Microsoft Research Cambridge and Microsoft Innovation Center Greece, ATHENA Research Center, and Athens University of Economics and Business. He has worked for major e-Infrastructure projects such as the GEANT, EGEE series, EGI Design Study, PRACE, and the e-IRG support projects. He has also acted as a national delegate of the Programme Committee of the FP7 Research Infrastructures and the e-IRG, EGI Policy Board vice-chair and NGI representative (Hellasgrid) in EGI.

Title of Presentation: Cloud computing for Research and Science in the Horizon 2020: a hybrid future

Abstract:

Cloud computing has raised many expectations in the global economy, and its applicability for research and science has been debated. The presentation gives insights on the outcomes and current findings from a series of initiatives:

- The VENUS-C project proved with a wide range of application users that cloud computing including commercial public clouds are valuable for e-Science, especially for the long tail of e-Science applications (sometimes referred to also as "small sciences").
- The e-FISCAL project first findings show that European HPC/HTC e-Infrastructures are cost-effective with high-utilisation rates and depreciation rates. Operational expenditures are dominating the costs (70%), while personnel is roughly half of the total costs. However comparisons are not at all easy and use case views need to complement the overall picture (i.e. specific applications examined in both environments).
- The e-IRG Task Force on Cloud Computing analyses the applicability of cloud computing for research and science and provides a series of recommendations. It proposes a hybrid environment for research mixing the current e-infrastructure services with a central pool of commercial cloud services.

Overall the DCI future appears to be hybrid: a hybrid cloud composed by a community cloud for the "big e-Science applications" evolving the current distributed computing environment into a virtualised service-oriented computing e-infrastructure and a public cloud mostly for the "small sciences" with a centralised pool of resources procured centrally from commercial public clouds, possibly complemented by non-commercial ones.

In this way the current computing environment will evolve technologically striving for innovation, but more importantly will be able to fulfill the needs of the small sciences. During Horizon 2020 EC framework all public cloud challenges have to be in-field evaluated including central procurement of commercial resources, allocation and monitoring of resources (including metering and good use), legal compliance, interoperability and prevention of vendor lock-in, governance, and finally user satisfaction.

George Loftus

Mr. George Loftus serves as the Associate Vice President, Network Services for Internet2. Prior to be named to this position in September 2012 he served in an interim appointment to assist in the direction and coordination for the overall program and activities for Internet2 Member Relations & Marketing/Communications. Prior to joining Internet2, Loftus served as the President and CEO of OSHEAN, Rhode Island's non-profit research and education network from its founding in 2000 until 2012. Very involved in the higher education community and Internet2 for over a decade, Loftus has served on the Internet2 Board of Trustees as chair of the Architecture and Operations Advisory Council (AOAC). Those roles were relinquished prior to joining as staff at Internet2. As a recognized leader in the state and regional network community, he has also served as chair of The Quilt, the national coalition of advanced regional networks for research and education. Loftus brings to Internet2 his wealth of experiences and relationships with Internet2 leadership and acquaintances with many community leaders.

He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Salve Regina University. Loftus is based in Newport, Rhode Island, United States.
Title of Presentation: Updates on Internet2 Initiatives

Baher Esmat

Baher Esmat is ICANN's Vice President in the Middle East. He is part of the Global Stakeholder Engagement Team of ICANN. He also leads on strategy and engagement in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and is currently a member of the IGF's Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG). Baher joined ICANN in February 2006 as Manager of Regional Relations in the Middle East. Prior to ICANN, Baher worked for the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), where he served since 2002, most recently as Telecom Planning Manager. While with MCIT, Baher was a member of the Egyptian Delegation in the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), and a member of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). Between 1993 and 1999, Baher served as a Systems Engineer at Egypt's Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC), where he participated in establishing the first Internet Point of Presence in Egypt. In February 1999 Baher joined Newbridge Networks Corp. as a Systems Consultant for Egypt and Levant until he moved to MCIT in 2002. Baher received a Bachelor Degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Cairo University in1993, and a Master Degree in Computer Science from the American University in Cairo in 1999.
Title of Presentation: Universal Acceptance of Top-Level-Domains

Mohamed Jemni

Mohamed JEMNI is a Professor of Computer Science and Educational Technologies at the University of Tunis, Tunisia. He is the Head of the Research Laboratory of Technologies of Information and Communication & Electrical Engineering (LaTICE) at the University of Tunis (www.latice.rnu.tn). Since August 2008, he is the General chair of the Computing Center El Khawarizmi, the Internet services provider for the sector of higher education and scientific research in Tunisia.

His Research Projects Involvements during the last 20 years are tools and environments of e-learning, High Performance and Grid computing and Accessibility of Information and Communication Technologies to People with Disabilities. He is currently conducting two main projects in his laboratory:

- Development of an e-learning environment for students with disabilities.
- Improving accessibility of deaf community by the use of ICT and sign language.

He published more than 150 papers in international journals and conferences and produced many studies for international organizations such as ALECSO, ITU and UNESCO. He has a patent for the application MMS Sign to make mobile phones accessible for deaf people.

Mr. Jemni and his laboratory have won several awards, including the UNESCO Prize 2008 for the e-learning curriculum they developed for visually impaired and the "World Summit Award (WSA) - Mobile 2010" in the field of social inclusion.

He is member of the steering committee of G3ICT – United Nations, Global initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies and he is also the president of a Tunisian NGO created in June 2011: the Tunisian Association of e-accessibility (www.e-access.tn).

He has launched many initiatives to promote ICT accessibility in the Arab region including the project of WCAG2.0 translation to Arabic (http://www.utic.rnu.tn/wcag2.0) to promote accessibility of Arabic Web Content and the 2009 initiative for using ICT to develop Arab Sign language (www.icta.rnu.tn/asl/).

Eesa Bastaki

Dr. Eesa Mohammed Bastaki, Ph.D. Former CEO, ICT Fund, Faculty member, Faculty of Engineering, UAE University.

He worked as a Teaching Assistant in UAE University from 1981 until 1989. He has been a faculty member in the EE Department at UAE University since 1989. During his career he held many posts. He was the Chairman of the Energy Section during 1990-1991, and Chairman of the Technology Section during 1991-1992 at the Technology & Energy Research Center, UAEU. He was the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs from 1992 to 1996 and later on from 1998 to 2000 the Director of the IT Center at UAEU.

He was the Director of Education & Technology at Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority (DSOA) from 2003 to 2008. In 2009, he was Consultant of Education & Technology to DSOA. He is one of the founders of DSO & RIT-Dubai. He is the founder of IT Center in Al-Ain Municipality. Until Sept 2012, he was the CEO of ICT Fund.

Title of Presentation: Cloud Computing and Applications

Abstract:
The objectives of cloud computing is to centralize every data, file, application and technical solutions software that are needed for a user. This is what was known earlier as 'thin computing' or 'thin client' environment. Individual collections of personal computers and server rooms spread around all over can be replaced by one unified system holding all the files, applications and operating systems we need for an entire organization. As an end user you don't need to carry with you USB flash discs, optical CDs or hard drives to operate your programs and software packages. Instead you work with what is effectively a dumb terminal, which you use to access programs and files from a central server known as clouds.

In the UAE, we have a program called National Interest ICT Projects, and one of the vital projects is a National Research and Education Network (NREN) called 'Ankabut', which means 'spider'. You are only allowed to join the network if your access is at least one gigabit per second while the backbone is at least 10 gigabits per second. More than 50 campuses or more than 30 universities are connected to Ankabut, which in turn is connected to other national research and education networks, including Internet2 in the United States, Janet in the UK, and across Europe through GEANT.

I have proposed to Ankabut a project known as "ANCHOR" which stands for "Ankabut National Cloud & Hypercomuting ORganization" where it creates series of private clouds, such as a cloud for universities, a cloud for incubators, a cloud for libraries and a cloud for government. This would allow users across the country to have the same resources – software, operating systems, number-crunching capability, high-performance computing – and whatever they need would be served by this private cloud. This new proposal

One of the advantages of this project is, of course, to reduce cost. Why should universities duplicate the same research facilities? With Ankabut, we have the potential for researchers in separate laboratories to work together via virtual reality, not just sharing ideas, but sharing resources and performing remote experiments in real time. In addition, a virtual library is another application for Ankabut in UAE to share resources without having a library in every campus.

Mustafa Jarrar

Coordinator and manager of many EU and international projects in the 5th, 6th, 7th frameworks, TEMPUS, ContentPlus, including SIERA, Pal-Gov, GovSeer, ArabicOntology, SEARCHiN, KnowledgeWeb, OntoWeb, DIP, Innovanet, Namic, IrisWeb, POLARIS, among others. He published more than 75 articles and refereed reports in the areas of Ontology Engineering, Lexical Semantics, Semantic Web, e-Government and Databases, chaired 16 international workshops, a PC member of +100 journals/conferences, a full member of the IFIP2.6 on Database Semantics, the IFIP2.12 on Web Semantics, and the UN ESCWA Technology Centre Board of Governors, the chair of the Palestinian National Interoperability Committee, and the director of the Palestinian eGovernment Academy. Dr Jarrar is an adviser to the Minister of Telecommunication and IT in Palestine.

Title of presentation: Europe-Palestine Research Cooperation– Ongoing Projects at Sina Institute, Birzeit University

Abstract:

The rapid growth of cross-border markets and global concerns are creating a huge demand to facilitate knowledge sharing between societies. The diversity of languages, cultures, and standards are the main barriers to sharing and consuming knowledge. This talk overviews active research cooperation between European universities and Sina Institute at Birzeit University-towards developing multilingual and multi-cultural knowledge sharing technologies.

"Sina Institute for Knowledge Engineering and Arabic Technologies", in short "Sina Institute", is part of the faculty of information technology, the largest ICT research center in Palestine, and among a few centers in the region specialized in knowledge Engineering and Arabic Technologies. The institute has been awarded a research grant from Google, and is leading several EU projects, like the FP7 SIERA project in the area multilingual and multicultural knowledge sharing; The TEMPUS PalGov Project to establish the Palestinian e-Government Academy, the Italian GovSeer project on interoperability of governmental e-services; the Arabic Ontology, Wojood, among others.

Danfeng Zhu

Danfeng Zhu is a Ph.D student of Sino-German Joint Software Institute of Beihang University. Her research majors in computer architecture and systems, especially in the memory system microarchitecture. She received her BS degree from Peking University, and MS degree from Software Institute of China Academy of Science. She is a member of IEEE and China Computer Federation (CCF). She has participated in several national and international projects (EUChinaGrid, EchoGrid, Bridge, EPIKH).

Title of presentation: HPC and e-Infrastructure Development in China's High-tech R&D Program
Abstract:
In this talk, beginning with the introduction of the key project of the China's High-tech R&D program on high productivity computer and grid service environment, Prof. Qian will talk about the key technical issues and the major achievements in developing the peta-scale computers. He will also present the efforts in developing the China National Grid (CNGrid), including efforts on grid middleware, grid service environment, and grid applications.

Luis Nunez

I got a Doctor Degree in Physics (Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas-Venezuela 1989) with areas of interest of Astroparticles, Relativistic Astrophysics and Information Technologies. Now I am a Full Professor of Physics at the Universidad Industrial de Santander, Bucaramanga Colombia and I am responsible of the Academic Relations of the Latin America Cooperation for Advance Networks (RedCLARA).

During 30 years I have been Full Professor of Physics at the Universidad de Los Andes, Mérida-Venezuela. During these years I worked as a Director of Information and Communication Technologies, Universidad de Los Andes, 1995-2009, Director of National Centre for Scientific Computing (Centro Nacional de Cálculo Científico) Universidad de Los Andes (1997-2009). Member of the Board of Directors of the Venezuela National Centre for ICT (Centro Nacional de Tecnologías de Información) CNTI, 2003-2006. I have also been involved in several European, Regional and National Projects on ICT and e-research: Bioinformatics network for Latin America and the Caribbean, (LACBioNet), Iberoamerican Bioinformatics Network, Alfa Program High Energy Physics Latin American-European Network (HELEN), E-Infrastructure shared between Europe and Latin America (EELA), E-Science Grid Facility for Europe and Latin America (EELA2), Grid Initiatives for e-Science virtual communities in Europe and Latin America (GISELA), Virtual Atomic and Molecular Data Center (VAMDC), Large Aperture Gamma Ray Burst Observatory (LAGO) I am author/co-author of more than 80 scientific articles in the areas of Physics and ICT published in international journals and more than 60 proceedings of international conferences.

Title of Presentation: From e-Infrastructure to VRC
Abstract:
We present the lesson learned in the road to build Virtual Research Communities (VRC) in Latin America. Describing what is theCooperación Latinoamericana de Redes Avanzadas, RedCLARA and what has been its evolution coming from an e-infrastructure oriented organisation to be now focusing on VRC services. We describe the strategies, lesson learned and some of the achievements to build VRC and VRC services.

Abdulla Al Hefeiti

His mission is to lead and oversee the maintenance, development, and expansion of information resources and consortium in support of the research, teaching to service mission & goals of the Academic libraries.

Professional Experience :

- 15 years of dedicated performance in key libraries service sand mange roles.
- Assistant Dean , UAE University libraries
- Director of Masdar Library
- Chair of UAE Library Director
- Past president of Special Libraries Association, SLA (Arabian Gulf Chapter)
- Harvard Graduate School of Education, the Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians, August 2-7, 2009.
- MEPI/USPTO program for Librarians on copyright and digital Management Issues June 12-30 2006, USA.
- Non Degree Program (Two courses in Marketing Library Services & Information System Design) McGill University - Montréal, Canada

Title of the presentation: United Arab Emirates Library Consortium (eFADA): Opportunities and Challenges

Abstract:

Many academic libraries throughout the world have geared towards adoption of new policies to confront the challenges brought by the information and communications technology (ICT), as well as to meet the increasing needs of the users for information at different levels, and minimizing the effects of the restricted budgets. To face these challenges, many academic libraries involved in a kind of interlibrary cooperation to develop a banded group of libraries known as a Consortium. The primary objective of the Library Consortium is in sharing with partners the budget of the acquisitions to increase their negotiation power with the vendors. The consortium provides as well different routes of access to a wide variety of academic resources (printed and electronic) from one-stop union catalogue (OPAC). However, to build a successful consortium, the partner libraries should unify the library systems, cataloguing standards, and collection development policies. Thus, the integration library system and standards could improve and upgrade the library services for the users. Adding to the above important services, the Consortium can play an important role in centralizing the Institutional & research data of the country under the National Data Repository.

The Library Consortium is relatively a new phenomenon in the UAE higher education. This in turn sparked strong interest to focus on the establishment of consortium under the umbrella of Ankabut, the UAE Advanced Network for Research and Education with the aim at gaining some insights into the missions and objectives of interlibrary cooperation, and the factors of success for planning, managing, and integrating the library functions and services of the consortium's members.

The academic libraries in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) did not lack behind such global trends of library cooperation. In 2000, three academic libraries of higher institutions, namely High Colleges of Technology (HCT), UAE University (UAEU), and Zayed University (ZU), which are under the umbrella of the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Research, have involved in a consortium paradigm. The three Libraries initially unified their OPAC system with Millennium™ to initiate in 2002 an interlibrary book lending via INN-Reach circulation module. This consortia activity is known as Library and Information Web Access (LIWA).

Fahar Hayati

Graduated with B.Eng. (Hons) in Electronic Engineering from Sheffield University (UK) in 1966 and received his Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Edinburgh University (UK) in 1971.

He has been working since October 1969 in both industry and academia in several countries including UK, UAE and Iraq. His academic experience spans over a period of more than 30 years.
His main research interest has been in semiconductors and renewable energy.

Since becoming the Dean of College of Engineering at Ajman University of Science & Technology in July, 2000 his main effort has been directed to developing engineering education and meeting the challenges of building an effective learning environment.

Title of Presentation: Faculty for the Digital Age

Abstract:
The big challenge that is facing academic faculty in our present rapidly changing digital age market is the role they have to play in the teaching/learning process. The teaching/learning environment has stretched beyond local time and space due to the use of advanced technological tools and new lecture delivery modes. So far and to our knowledge, the present operational procedures are inadequate in meeting the needs of this new educational environment. The outcome of this environment, the graduate, has to meet the requirement of the market and continue to be so throughout. For that, it is important to know how the market itself is going to be and what skills should the graduate acquire. This raises the question of what the role of the faculty should be and whether the faculty is capable of playing that role.

It is often said that we need to have properly trained faculty for the new digital age. The real question is what type of faculty we are talking about. The teaching experience and the background of many of the present teaching faculty in universities belong to pre-digital generation. Such faculty will find it difficult to adapt to the new digital age. This might be also said about those in the pipeline as potential faculty members for the near future.

The situation can be resolved partially by preparing faculty who can meet the immediate needs of the new environment. However, this will not be sufficient and a more comprehensive solution would be in shifting towards collaborative learning with the faculty being a mentor as well as lifelong learner.

Rusagara Innocent

Innocent Rusagara is completing his Ph.D in the School of Computational and Applied Mathematics, University of the Witwatersrand. He received his B.Sc. Degree at National University of Rwanda and his M.Sc. Degree from Bangalore University - India. He has been awarded the Best International Outgoing Student for the academic year 2006-2007 by the Garden City College-India. He is also a lecturer at Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, Kigali-Rwanda. His doctoral research at University of the Witwatersrand is focused on computational and numerical methods.

Title of presentation: The Advantages of E-Learning in Inclusive Education: "The Case of WEC-Learn to People with Disability".

Abstract:

In this topic, we are concerned by the marginalization of people with disability in accessing normal Schools or Universities as well as job. It is a common practice that their education ends up to primary-school whereas their teachers/lecturers are not even well-trained to assist them efficiently. Also, due to personal complex and lack of supporting tools; they have difficulties to reach Schools or Universities and this motivates the advantage of e-learning in inclusive education. For the same reason, the Worldwide E-Learning Campus has developed an e-learning system portal named WEC-Learn, which shall contribute a lot in assisting people with special needs as it does not require much. Through WEC-Learn, they can study, socialize, get international jobs to work online, play and enjoy the beauty of e-infrastructure.

The pilot group has been identified to be brought from the Ubumwe Community Center, and the extension can help Africa which is having a big number of such people due to several issues ranging from conflicts to poverty. To meet the multicultural needs and to be useful anywhere in the world, the WEC-Learn can be customized by any School, University or Company that may need to use it to assist its society in their own language.

Hussam Al-Ulama

Dr Husam Al-Ulama was born in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) in 1963. He graduated from UAE University with a BA in Geography.

In his early career, he worked as a teacher at Al Maktoum School in Dubai for three years. In 1989, he was appointed as a teaching Assistant at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In 1990, Dr Al-Ulama registered at Durham University in the UK to start his postgraduate studies. In 1994 he obtained a PhD in Political Geography and started teaching at UAE University.

In 1996, he was appointed as Assistant to the Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, with a focus on Student Affairs. He continued to do so until 2000, when he became Dean of Libraries of UAE University. A position he maintained until mid-2010.

By mid-2010, Dr Al-Ulama was appointed as the Cultural Attaché of the UAE Embassy in Washington, D.C. He stayed in this position for one year.

In October 2011, Dr Al-Ulama was appointed as Director of the UAE's National Research Foundation (NRF) - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, UAE. NRF is a research capacity building and funding agency within the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, UAE.
He is a member of many local, regional and international committees and organizations and is an active attendee of many conferences, forums and workshops. He is also very active as a guest speaker for lectures.

Samia Melhem

Samia Melhem chairs the eDevelopment Community of Practice and leads ICT unit's knowledge and learning program at the World Bank Group. She is an international expert on egovernment . Her projects focus on improving Public sector delivery, and outreach to citizens and businesses; and on creating the enabling environment for societal transformation, using ICTs as a tool for governance, accountability and transparency (GAC), employment and inclusion. Samia contributes to research on eGovernment policies, innovation, business, and results, and has led the eProcurement Reference guide and capacity building efforts in ICT unit, the Gender and ICT toolkit as well as the Telecoms Regulatory toolkit during her years of service at Infodev. One of her eGovernment projects, eRwanda, just won the Technology in Government Award (TIGA) sponsored by UN, Economic Commission for Africa, and the Government of Finland. In her 20+ years in international development . Samia worked in different regions (Africa, ECA & MNA), in several sectors (financial management, public service delivery, tax and cusoms, education, health, agriculture, etc.) and on more than forty countries. She holds degrees in Electrical engineering (BSEE); Computer Sciences (MS), and Finance (MBA), and had taken several self-development programs in international development and economics.

Title of presentation: Open Data and Open government initiatives

Abstract:

I will be discussing the Open Data and Open government initiatives the World Bank team is getting a lot of demand to support from several client countries. I will go over the benefits of opening data, for governments, academia and civil society, as can be measured today. I will discuss government and academia readiness, the behavioral changes and the change management programs that seem to have worked in some of the leading countries (UK, Brazil, Australia, etc.)
I will also briefly demonstrate, if there is time, some public goods/resources available to policy makers and academia:
An on line toolkit to get interested authorities or open data managers started: http://data.worldbank.org/open-government-data-toolkit.The Open Development Technology alliance resources that have been used by mobile apps developers and civil society to create civic commons of software apps www.opendta.org; and a draft Readiness Assessment Tool for Government agencies

Ahmad Alosi

Dr. Ahmed Alosi is currently the Research Program Manager at the National Research Foundation - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, UAE. He served as the Director of Research Funding Programs in the Arab Science and Technology Foundation , Sharjah-UAE, for the period of 2007-2011.

He also served several positions in the Ministry of Industry and Minerals in Iraq, as an expert in the Office of the Minister of Industry and Technical Department. Dr Alosi worked as Head of Organometallic Department at Ibn Sina Research Chemical Company where he developed several chemical research projects to pilot scale for Zeglar-Natta catalyst (1991-2000).

Dr. Ahmed Alosi holds a Doctor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom 1990.

Title of Presentation: National Research Foundation –Funding Programs

Tiwonge Banda

Tiwonge Msulira Banda manages the Secretariat of UbuntuNet Alliance for Research and Education Networking, the regional research and education network for eastern and southern Africa. He has 5 years of experience in project management, coordinating emerging NRENs in East and Southern Africa and following up on issues of ICT infrastructure including connectivity for Research and Education. He has a credit BSc in Environmental Science from the University of Malawi and currently studying for an MBA jointly offered by the East and Southern Africa Management Institute and Maastricht University. He has been involved in EU FP7 projects since 2007 and participated in the GLOBAL, ERINA4Africa and CHAIN; and now eI4Africa and CHAIN-REDS projects. Apart from managing finance and administration, he manages the web presence and e-newsletter of UbuntuNet Alliance and is also involved in the dissemination activities of the AfricaConnect project.

Title of presentation: E-Infrastructures and Applications in Sub Saharan Africa : Challenges and Opportunities

Abstract:

E-Infrastructure application opportunities in sub Saharan Africa are emerging steadily. However they have been hampered by low quality high cost connectivity. NRENs have been working to address this with great success in countries such as South Africa and Kenya, The reinforcement of the existing UbuntuNet Alliance network by the AfricaConnect project through the establishment of regional links will level the playing field over the next year for other countries, especially landlocked countries. The presentation looks at the applications already running successfully in the region and the potential being unveiled partly within the framework of EU FP7 CHAIN and the forthcoming EU FP7 CHAIN-REDS.

Johnathon Chapman

Johnathon Chapman is Chief Information Officer for Georgetown University in Qatar. He is also active in Internet2, the US national research and education network, chairing the Internet2 Emerging NRENs Middle East Special Interest Group. Mr. Chapman's career spans more than 20 years in the field of information technology as an administrator, consultant, teacher, and technologist. For the past 11 years he has lived in the Arabian Gulf where he has worked in higher education, government, and private industry. Mr. Chapman has degrees in business and computer science. He has special interests in global education networks and the management of service organizations in culturally diverse environments.

Federico Ruggieri

Dr. Federico Ruggieri, is Director of Research of INFN and works on On-Line and Off-line Computing Systems for High Energy Physics experiments. He promoted the first GRID project approved by the European Community DataGRID. He was the Director of CNAF in Bologna, where he started the LHC TIER1 for Italy. He played also an important role in the development of the Networks for Research in Italy. He is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of GARR. Presently he is the Project Manager of two European Projects: EUChinaGRID and EUMEDGRID funded under the 6th FP.

Title of presentation: CHAIN-REDS Project Overview

Abstract:

CHAIN-REDS vision is to promote and support technological and scientific collaboration across different e-Infrastructures established and operated in various continents, in order to facilitate their uptake and use by established and emerging Virtual Research Communities (VRCs) but also by single researchers, promoting instruments and practices that can facilitate their inclusion in the community of users. The project aims to support and disseminate the best practices currently adopted in Europe and other continents, together with promoting and facilitating interoperability among different regional e-Infrastructures.

The core objective of the CHAIN-REDS project is to promote, coordinate and support the effort of a critical mass of non-European e-Infrastructures for Research and Education (R&E) to collaborate with Europe by addressing interoperability and interoperation of Grids and other Distributed Computing Infrastructures (DCI).

Rafael Mayo García

Rafael Mayo García is Doctor Degree in Physics from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (2004). From 2006 he has also been Adjunct Faculty and Honorary Fellow at the same University in the Physics of Materials Department. He has been involved in many experiments in Bulgaria, Sweden and Ireland (funded, among others, by the European Commission with a Marie Curie fellowship) to study plasma properties. He has also obtained a postdoctoral fellowship in the Spanish Juan de la Cierva Programme.

He is author of 23 scientific articles published in international JCR referenced journals (being cited 144 times) and more than 60 proceedings (being cited 245 times in Google Scholar). He has been involved in several European and National Projects working on ICT scientific developments (EGEE-III, EUFORIA, EFDA-ITM, Spanish e-Science Network) and even on managerial activities as Work Package Manager and/or member of Executive Boards (EELA, EELA-2, EPIKH, GISELA, CHAIN, CHAIN-REDS, BETTY). He also has served to several institutions as evaluator for their competitive calls, European Commission included.

Title of the presentation: Data Infrastructures in CHAIN-REDS

Abstract:
One of the main objectives of the CHAIN-REDS project is to improve the impact achieved by the CHAIN initiative. In this sense, it is looking for new challenges and technologies. Thus, once CHAIN proposed a road-map of services to be provided by the Infrastructures according to the Virtual Research Communities (VRCs) needs and demonstrated and validated a model of interoperation and interoperability, CHAIN-REDS aims improving its collaboration with the scientific communities by working on the standardization of data. First, it plans to: extend the CHAIN Knowledge base with Data Infrastructures: collecting issues, best practices & discovering data repositories that could be of interest for VRCs; support the study of data infrastructures for a few VRCs; promote trust building towards open scientific data infrastructures across the world regions, including organisational, operational and technical aspects with a strong liaison with other CHAIN-REDS Activities; study the opportunities of data sharing across different e-Infrastructures and continents widening the scope of the existing CHAIN Knowledge Base to Data Infrastructures; and, provide proof-of principle use-cases for Data sharing across the continents. All these topics will be discussed along the presentation.

Ludek Matyska

Ludek Matyska is a full professor at Masaryk University (MU) as well as a senior researcher at CESNET. He is currently the director of CERIT Scientific Cloud (CERIT-SC) at MU, a national centre dedicated to promotion and building of national cloud and integrated grid-cloud infrastructures). He is also a vice director of the Institute of Computer Science there. He works for CESNET since 1998, serving as principal co-investigator of its research programmes.

He is and has been involved in many national (e.g. MetaCentrum, Distributed Data Storage (DiDaS), MediGRID) and international projects (e.g. GridLab, CoreGRID, DataGrid, EGEE II, III, EGI InSpire, EMI, and the EGI_DS), either as principal investigator or as a head of the CESNET or MU team. His research interests lies in security in large scale distributed systems, e-infrastructure (network, computing and data) architecture and policy and generally in cloud and grid technology.

Title of presentation: Identity Federations for specific collaboration

Abstract:
Use of scientific facilities usually requires some kind of authentication to allow owners of the facility to decide that only genuine and approved users are allowed. While digital X.509 certificates can be used, they are rather cumbersome and hard to manage by ordinary users. Recently, the concept of Identity Federations is helping to overcome the digital certificates shortcoming and improve the user friendliness of the authentication is widely distributed environment.

The Identity Federations use user's home institutions to provide the primary authentication to a very wide set of different services from very different parties. We will discuss the benefits, constraints, and also some shortcomings of this approach, as well as the Code of Conduct that defines the responsibilities of identity and service providers in a federation.

Roberto Barbera

Prof. Roberto Barbera was born in Catania (Italy) in October 1963. He graduated in Physics "cum laude" at the University of Catania in 1986 and since 1990 he holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the same University. Since beginning of 2005 he is Associated Professor at the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the Catania University. Since his graduation his main research activity has been done in the domains of Experimental Nuclear and Particle Physics.

He has been involved in many experiments in France, Russia, United States and Sweden to study nuclear matter properties in heavy ion collisions at intermediate energies. He is author of about 90 scientific papers published on international journals and more than 150 proceedings of international conferences. He is editor of the International Journal of Distributed Systems and Technologies and referee of both Journal of Grid Computing and Future Generation Computer Systems. Since 1997 he is involved in the NA57 Experiment at CERN SPS and in the ALICE Experiment at CERN LHC. Within ALICE, he has been the coordinator of the Off-line software of the Inner Tracking System detector and member of the Off-line Board. Since late 1999 he is interested in Grid Computing.

He is member of the Executive Board of the Italian INFN Grid Project , of the Executive Committee of the Italian Grid Infrastructure (the Italian National Grid Initiative) and of the Scientific & Technical Committee of GARR (the Italian National Research and Education Network). Between 2005 and 2009 he has been the Director of two big Grid Projects (TriGrid VL and PI2S2) funded by the Sicilian Regional Government and by the Ministry of University and Research, respectively. At European level, he has been involved with managerial duties in many EU funded projects and he is currently the Coordinator of the EPIKH project. Since 2002 he is the responsible of the GENIUS Grid portal project and, in 2004, he created the international GILDA Grid infrastructure for training and dissemination that he coordinates since the beginning.

Title of presentation: Standard-based Interoperability amongst Local, Grid and Cloud Resources Distributed Worldwide

Abstract

The availability of powerful COTS computers and the decrease of costs of LAN components triggered in the first half of 90's the emergence of cluster computing for High Throughput Computing (HTC) applications. "Farms" of computers with many-core processors, interconnected by very low latency networks, have become the norm also in the domain of High Performance Computing (HPC) and in the last five years about 80% of the Top500 machines are based on a distributed architecture.

Moreover, the steep decrease of costs of large/huge-bandwidth WANs has fostered in the recent years the spread and the uptake of the grid computing paradigm. Grid infrastructures are being built in several areas of the world but, despite the huge investments made by the European Commission and by other funding agencies, both at national and international level, the total number of users is in the order of magnitude of 104 that is much less than 106, which is the order of magnitude of the number of EU researchers in the public sector, and 107, which is the number of users of the GÉANT network.

The reasons for this have been investigated through studies promoted by the European Commission itself and mostly reside in the complexity for non-IT-expert users of the Grid Security Infrastructure, based on a Public Key Infrastructure, in the little adoption of standards to let different middleware be interoperable among each other, and in the lack of general frameworks to build easily customizable and easy to use high-level user interfaces. Indeed, several, and quite different, middleware have been deployed on the grid infrastructures existing in the world with no (or very little) interoperability amongst each other.

The distributed computing ecosystem has become even more complex with the recent emergence of cloud computing. Private cloud providers rely on "non-disclosed" architectures and have business models that leave very little (if any) room to interoperability and federability. Open federated clouds for research have also started to be created but they are still in an infancy state and the interaction between computing clouds and storage clouds is in many cases quite "fuzzy".

This complexity keeps most of non-IT expert research communities away and forces early adopters to have several accounts on several services if their research communities span across different e-infrastructures.

Recently, the Grid team at INFN Catania has developed a framework to easily and quickly build Science Gateways which can be configured as Service Providers of Identity Federations and then potentially accessible by huge numbers of users. The framework makes use of the Simple API for Grid Applications (SAGA) standard, defined by the Open Grid Forum, to perform middleware-independent job and data management.

In this contribution we will present the CHAIN Science-Gateway and the results of its program to demonstrate standard-based interoperability amongst local (clustered or opportunistically exploited), grid and cloud resources distributed worldwide and based on several different middleware.

Nikos Manouselis

Dr. Nikos Manouselis has a diploma in Electronics & Computer Engineering, a M.Sc. in Operational Research, and a M.Sc. in Electronics & Computer Engineering, all from the Technical University of Crete, Greece. He also holds a PhD on the application of metadata technologies in the domain of agriculture, from the Informatics Laboratory (Infolab) of the Agricultural University of Athens (AUA), Greece.

Nikos is the R&D Director of Agro-Know Technologies (http://wiki.agroknow.gr), a technology-oriented SME that is focusing on metadata-driven innovation for agricultural and biodiversity education and research. He is also serving as a consultant for organizations such as the Greek Research & Technology Network, the Computer Technology Institute & Press "Diophantus" of the Greek Ministry of Education, and the University of Alcala, Spain. In addition he is giving lectures on topics related to Web Science and Web Technology at the University of Alcala.

He has extensive experience in the implementation of large scale initiatives and project coordination that deal with repository federation and metadata aggregation infrastructures. In the past, he has been involved in the coordination of EU projects such as the eContentplus Organic.Edunet as well as the CIP PSP VOA3R and Natural Europe initiatives. Currently, he is serving as a member of the expert teams coordinating the CIP PSP Organic.Lingua and FP7 agINFRA initiatives.

Since 2011, Nikos is serving as the President of the ARIADNE Foundation (http://ariadne-eu.org), a not-for-profit association that aims to improve the creation, sharing and reuse of knowledge through the use of technology. ARIADNE is a core member of the Global Learning Objects Brokering Exchange (GLOBE, http://www.globe-info.org) an international consortium of networks of educational repositories and portals.

Title of presentation: Large-scale (meta) Data Aggregators and Requirements from Research & Education e-Infrastructures: the case of agriculture

Abstract:
During the last years, the trend to open up data and provide them freely on the Internet has intensified in volume as well as quality and value of the data made available. The Linked Open Data (LOD) community has grasped the opportunity to combine, cross-reference, and analyse unprecedented volumes of high-quality data and to build innovative applications. This effort has caused a tremendous network effect, adding value and creating new opportunities for everybody, including the original data providers. But most of the low-hanging fruit has been picked and it is time to move on to the next step, combining, cross-indexing and, in general, making the best out of all public data, regardless of their schema, size, and update rate; accepting that some schemas might be better suited to a given dataset and application and that there is no consensus about a "universal" schema or vocabulary for any given application, let alone for the Semantic Web and related initiatives such as the LOD cloud.

In other words, there is a need for data infrastructures that (besides being efficient, real-time responsive, and scalable) will be flexible and robust enough to allow data providers to publish in the manner and form that best suits their processes and purposes and data consumers to query in the manner and form that best suits their applications and services.

The agricultural information management community has been one of the pioneers in this effort, since it is dealing with realistic, large scale, pressing problems that are related to major societal challenges. It is also one of the communities that early faced real world situations where data-intensive analysis needed to combine information from different, large-scale sources that are actively maintained in incompatible schemata: the domain includes various different topics with subjects varying from plant science and horticulture, to agricultural engineering and agricultural economics.

In this talk, we will discuss some of the main challenges related to the ways such large-scale (meta) data aggregation may take place in order to support various applications and scenarios for research and education. The reflection of our experience in initiatives such as the agINFRA project will be given, in order to discuss how requirements can be given to the infrastructure providers as well as how meaningful services can be designed and deployed over such data-driven e-infrastructures. This is why the presentation will put emphasis on three main topics: (a) management/curation of data repositories and collections, (b) aggregation of data and metadata in centralized indexes and pools, and (c) deployment of services for specific research and educational scenarios.

Hosts

ANKABOUT

Ankabut is the United Arab Emirates' Advanced National Research and Education Network (NREN) offering academic institutions connectivity to other education networks around the world. In addition to connecting universities, Ankabut can connect schools and public institutions together across the UAE with an effective cost model. Ankabut also co-operates on a national, GCC, regional and international arena representing the UAE in conferences, exhibitions and forums. Ankabut aims to offer QoS based networks with IPv4/IPv6, multicast and introduce advanced services on a "Closed Group Network" with "Public Interest Purposes".

Ankabut interconnects 56 campuses with a 10G backbone and 1G access links. It enables a closed community network that allows the transfer of real-time services such as converged IM, voice and video communication, time-critical services such as grid computing interconnect (cloud computing), non-real time services such as e-learning, email, library interconnect, off-site disaster recovery, global federated single-sign-on and Wi-Fi networking.

NRF

National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

On Friday, March 7th, 2008 His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research, United Arab Emirates (UAE), signed a decree creating the National Research Foundation (NRF). The decree signing ceremony represents a seminal milestone event in the growth and development of research activity in the UAE and research leadership by H.E. Sheikh Nahayan. NRF is a Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research initiative that will help promote research activity in private and public universities, colleges, centers, institutes and companies, by individuals or teams of researchers in UAE. NRF has been established to provide research leadership in the country and to provide funding support on a competitive basis to researchers in the country. Research projects that survive international peer review, that contribute social and economic benefits to UAE, and enhance the development process in the country will be supported.

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The TAGITop initiative aims at introducing an affordable top-of- the line laptop to every Arab citizen- in an effort to increase the level of computer literacy in the Arab region, bridge the digital gap, and build sufficient ICT skills and capacity to boost the economic standing of the region and steer it towards a knowledge-based and innovation driven society.

Status

- Not-for-profit initiative but implemented as a self-sustaining business.
- Potential partners: Intel, Microsoft, FOXCONN ODM (original design manufacturing), and educational software companies.
- Mid range laptop for professional, education, and basic use - platform independent with customized software applications and content

Mandate:

- Empower citizens with affordable top of the line laptop for professional/ educational/ and basic use;
- Help advance development and spread benefits of ICT;
- Provide information and knowledge resources for increased ICT literacy.

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Specifications : المواصفات

- CPU: Intel Core i 3 2330M
- Screen: 14.0" LED HD (16:9, Gloss)
- V RAM: Shared
- Memory: 2GB (DDR3)
- HDD: 320GB (5.4KR SATA)
- ODD: Super Multi Dual Layer (SATA)
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سعر الجهاز 470 دولار أمريكي*

* غير شامل ضريبة المبيعات

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Founded in 1995, Zain in Jordan was the first operator to introduce mobile phone services into the country. In just a few years, it earned its reputation as the most progressive telecom operator in the region in terms of competitiveness, readiness to adopt new technologies, deploy cutting-edge services and invest in community development through the most active and substantive corporate social responsibility (CSR) program in the country.

Since its inception, Zain in Jordan has tallied subscriber growth at an exponential rate, with the number of users currently around 3 million subscribers. Through more than 1,700 cell sites, Zain covers the entire populated area of the Kingdom.

In January 2003, the Zain Group acquired Zain in Jordan in what was considered the largest single acquisition in the Middle East area, and the largest private sector investment in Jordan. Today, Zain is the leading and the largest telecommunications network operator and services provider in the country. Since day one, Zain has deployed an advanced infrastructure and launched its services over a state-of-the-art network, one of the most developed networks in the region.
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ZAYED UNIVERSITY

Zayed University seeks to prepare students for meaningful and successful twenty-first century personal and professional lives; to graduate students who will help shape the future of the region and the world; to support the economic and social advancement of the U.A.E.; to lead innovation in higher education through teaching, learning, research, and outreach; and to do so in a culturally diverse, humane, technologically advanced, and increasingly global environment.

Zayed University is an educational centre of excellence in an emerging and evolving nation. Proudly bearing the name of the founder of the nation – the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan – it stands for innovation, inspiration, and education.

The University was founded to prepare male and female leaders who will provide the knowledge and abilities this nation will need to enjoy a future of security and progress. It offers an academic program that prepares talented, ambitious and enthusiastic students for success in government, the arts, business, media and IT and to meet the challenges of a dynamic twenty-first century world. The University was founded for UAE National women in 1998, with campuses in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Today, the University is educating more than 7,121 male and female students from 19 countries to compete and thrive in a global environment at the following campuses: Abu Dhabi - Khalifa City B, Dubai – Al Ruwayyah, and Dubai – Knowledge Village.

Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the University's programs are recognized internationally as coming from a quality assured university.

ICANN

Partners

TAG-Org

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) is the largest Global group of professional service firms in the fields of Accounting; External Audit; Internal Audit; Corporate Governance; Taxation; Educational Consultancy; Economic and Strategic studies; Management Advisory Services; Professional and Technical Training; Technology Transfer Project Management; Real Estate Management; Investors and Business Advisory Services; Human Resources and Recruitment Services; E-Government; E-Commerce; E-Education; IT and Security Audit; Web Design; Professional Interpretation and Translation; Website Arabization: Domain Names Registration; ICT Strategic Planning; ERP Consulting Services; IT and Internet Skills Training and Examinations; Intellectual Property News Agency; IP Business and Asset Valuation and Branding Services; IP Registration and Protection; Intellectual Property Renewals; IPR Protection and Management; Legal Services; and Public Offering.

TAG-Org operates out of 80 offices and 180 representative offices worldwide.

Operating in an area of the world that is experiencing radical and unprecedented change, TAG-Org is well aware of and experienced in all aspects of the economic environment, including the social and regulatory factors governing it. We recognize the need to systematically develop Arab institutions in order to build a solid future. TAG-Org is meeting this challenge by providing highly experienced specialists who anticipate economic and social trends and evaluate alternatives to determine the most creative solutions for both present and future challenges.

TAG-Org has acquired an outstanding record of success among its clients, which include important agencies, international and Pan-Arab governmental funding organizations, as well as leading companies in banking, industry, insurance and commerce. We have successfully assisted these clients with complex business and management decisions involving people, equipment, facilities and capital.

Partners

UAE ministry of higher education and scientific research

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research was established to oversee higher education and scientific research policies in the United Arab Emirates. The Ministry is responsible for the general planning of higher education and scientific research in the UAE; licensing private institutions of higher education, accrediting their programs and overseeing them to ensure their quality standards within the context of the master plan of higher education; preparing draft laws for the establishment of federal governmental institutions of higher education and scientific research and; achieving coordination and integration between federal institutions of higher education and scientific research in terms of budgets, fields of specialization and academic degrees awarded by each of them.

The Ministry is also responsible for coordinating students' admission policies and the criteria for their placement in the various fields of specialization in the UAE higher education institutions in response to the needs of the community; accrediting foreign bodies and institutions of higher education and equalizing their certificates; laying down the general policy of scholarships and academic aid, and following-up their affairs inside and outside the UAE, taking into account the needs of the community and the specializations provided by the higher education institutions in the UAE and; developing scientific research institutions, transferring technologies in the context of developmental requirements of the community, and coordinating between higher education and scientific research bodies and institutions on the one hand, and public education on the other. The Ministry coordinates with other ministries and with both government and private bodies in order to achieve the goals of the overall development, and participates with the ministries and stakeholders in laying down a licensing system for the practice of professions that require high qualifications.

The Ministry also performs any other responsibilities entrusted to it pursuant to any laws and regulations.

Partners

League of Arab States

League of Arab States, is a regional organisation of Arab states. It was formed in Cairo on 22 March 1945 with six members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. Yemen joined as a member on 5 May 1945. The Arab League currently has 22 members and four observers. The main goal of the league is to "draw closer the relations between member States and co-ordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries."

Through institutions such as the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League's Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), the Arab League facilitates political, economic, cultural, scientific and social programs designed to promote the interests of the Arab world It has served as a forum for the member states to coordinate their policy positions, to deliberate on matters of common concern, to settle some Arab disputes, and to limit conflicts. The League has served as a platform for the drafting and conclusion of many landmark documents promoting economic integration.

The Arab League has played a role in shaping school curricula, advancing the role of women in the Arab societies, promoting child welfare, encouraging youth and sports programs, preserving Arab cultural heritage, and fostering cultural exchanges between the member states.

Literacy campaigns have been launched, intellectual works reproduced, and modern technical terminology is translated for the use within member states. The league encourages measures against crime and drug abuse, and deals with labour issues—particularly among the emigrant Arab workforce

Partners

EUMEDCONNECT3 – a real network with real benefits

EUMEDCONNECT3 provides a high-capacity dedicated Internet network for the research and education (R&E) communities across the southern and eastern Mediterranean region.

By accessing the network through their respective national research and education networks (NRENs), that are partners in the programme, scientists and academics are able to collaborate among each other and engage in innovative, data-intensive international projects. With its direct links to GÉANT, the pan-European R&E network, EUMEDCONNECT3 provides access to over 40 million users at over 8000 research and education establishments across Europe. Via GÉANT's connections to networks in other world regions, EUMEDCONNECT3 is a gateway for Mediterranean researchers to be truly global players.

Running from 2011-2014, EUMEDCONNECT3 is co-funded with EUR 3.3m by the European Union and is the third phase. Through its earlier phases, the EUMEDCONNECT programme has connected Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia since 2004, promoting regional development and addressing local challenges, such as telecom monopolies and poor infrastructure. In the current phases, connections are being re-established, initially with Algeria, Egypt and Palestine, with additional countries eligible for EC funding support.

EUMEDCONNECT3 forms a platform for the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) which has been launched to create an R&E network for the wider Arab region. As Mediterranean neighbours, the NRENs of Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy and Spain are particularly interested in the collaboration opportunities offered by the programme and are active partners. EUMEDCONNECT3 is run by international research networking organisation DANTE, in collaboration with ASREN, the European and local NREN partners.

Partners

Internet2

Internet2 is an advanced networking consortium led by the research and education community. An exceptional partnership spanning U.S. and international institutions who are leaders in the worlds of research, academia, industry and government, the Internet2 community is developing breakthrough network technologies that support the most exacting applications of today—and spark the most essential innovations of tomorrow. Led by its members and focused on their current and future networking needs since 1996, Internet2 blends its unsurpassed human, IP and optical networks to develop and deploy revolutionary Internet technologies. Activating the same partnerships that produced today's Internet, our community is forging the Internet of the future.

Partners

CHAIN – Reds

The project on Co-ordination and Harmonization of Advanced e-Infrastructures for Research and Education Data Sharing (CHAIN-REDS) is coming with a vision to is to promote and support technological and scientific collaboration across different e-Infrastructures established and operated in various continents, in order to facilitate their uptake and use by established and emerging Virtual Research Communities (VRCs) but also by single researchers, promoting instruments and practices that can facilitate their inclusion in the community of users.

The project aims to support and disseminate the best practices currently adopted in Europe and other continents, and promote and facilitate interoperability among different regional e-Infrastructures. CHAIN-REDS gathers the main stakeholders of regional e-Infrastructures, collectively engaged in studying and defining a path towards a global e-Infrastructure ecosystem that will allow VRCs, research groups and even single researchers to access and efficiently use worldwide distributed resources (i.e. computing, storage, data, services, tools, applications).

Overall, CHAIN-REDs will provide input for future strategies and decision-making regarding collaboration with other regions on e-Infrastructure deployment and availability of related data; it will raise the visibility of e-Infrastructures towards intercontinental audiences, covering most of the world and will provide support to establish globally connected and interoperable infrastructures, in particular between EU and the developing regions.

Among several partners covering many regions, ASREN will play a major role with responsibilities and actions to cover the Arab region and to extend and consolidate cooperation with Europe and other regions in the domain of e-Infrastructures for R&E and to promote, coordinate and support the collaboration and interoperability of Grids and cloud computing.

Partners

The Association of Arab Universities

The Association of Arab Universities has (233) member Arab universities and its permanent headquarters is based in Amman. The Association has established a council for quality assurance and accreditation of Arab universities that aims to assist Arab universities to develop higher education and improve its quality through the dissemination of a quality culture and the provision of reference frameworks for higher educational institutions and programs.

German Jordanian University

The German-Jordanian University (GJU) is a public university located in Mushaqar, Madaba. It was founded in 2005 by a Royal Decree, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding reached between the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In August 2004, a founding committee had taken up its activities in Jordan. The committee was in close cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. At the same time, the German planning office opened at the University of Magdeburg-Stendal in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research BMBF and the German Academic Exchange Services DAAD, which is funding the university project for a period of four years. The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) under the "German Study Programmes Abroad" programme.

www.asrenorg.net

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