ASREN

Arab States Research and Education Network

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«The ASREN initiative will connect our researchers and scholars allowing them to share knowledge and to collaborate. It is a unifying network for the Arab region, and I commend it.»

Amre Moussa
Secretary General of the League of Arab States

"Investing in e-Infrastructures will advance inter-Arab research and education and promote cooperation with Europe"

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chair of UN
Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID)

Helping Arab Researchers to Answer the Challenge of Globalization

The practice of scientific research is changing dramatically. Long gone are the days in which researchers working in isolation contributed to technological innovation and social development. Only through multidisciplinary collaborations among research centers, industry and public entities knowledge, innovation, and exchange of know-how can be facilitated. e-Infrastructures play a major role in making such collaboration possible and enabling institutions to "boot up" and join the globalizing developed world.

It has been noted that collaborative scientific research among Arab countries has been weak so far. Renaissance is critically needed to meet regional challenges in areas related to education, health, environment, security, and governance. The ASREN initiative intends to help tackle this challenge.

The ASREN Vision

ASREN will establish an Arab Regional Network to interconnect existing Arab National R&E networks (NRENs) with each other and to their counterparts across the globe, and will act as a catalyst for e-Infrastructures in Arab countries where they are not yet available.

ASREN will thus support pan-Arab collaborative research and education projects and activities, and will contribute to boosting scientific research, innovation and education across the Arab world by increasing efficiency and productivity of research and education communities.

Mission and Key Objectives

ASREN aims to implement, manage and extend sustainable pan-Arab e-Infrastructures dedicated to the use of research and education communities and to boost scientific research and cooperation in member countries through the provision of world-class e-Infrastructures and e-services.

Its key objectives are:
- To build, maintain and consolidate regional e-Infrastructures dedicated to e-Science and Education across the Arab countries;
- To help create and sustain NRENs in Arab countries where they are not yet available
- To facilitate collaboration and cooperation among researchers and academics.

ASREN will:
- Interconnect the Arab National Research and Education Networks;
- Design and manage the regional network, both from a technical, administrative and financial point of view;
- Perform advocacy and fund-raising actions to sustain research networking in the Arab region;
- Define regional guidelines on key topics, such as security policies, interoperability of services and protocols, and infrastructure connectivity;
- Support the creation, usage and cross-national sharing of Arab research and education contents, also through the establishment of an online research gateway;
- Support multi-disciplinary collaboration in the research and education community, and promote cross-network cooperation in electronic services, applications and e-services;
- Provide support to national NRENs' and encourage the establishment of sustainable e-Infrastructures; and
- Facilitate technology transfer and promote advanced competences in the field of ICT across Arab countries.

Countries involved in the ASREN initiative:

Arab countries so far involved in the ASREN initiative are:

- **Algeria**
- **Egypt**
- **Jordan**
- **Morocco**
- **Tunisia**
- **Palestine**
- **Syria**
- **United Arab Emirates**

ASREN aims to implement pan-Arab dedicated R&E e-Infrastructures: therefore, it aims at being inclusive and is eager to involve other countries that share its vision.

The Organization

ASREN will be an independent nonprofit international organization under the umbrella of the Arab League. Its members will be NRENs of the Arab countries and NGOs representing research centers.

National Research and Education Networks - NRENs

NRENs connect research and education institutions at the national level into a dedicated network. The purposes of these networks are:

- To provide the researchers and academicians with state-of-the-art network, services, tools and applications to boost their productivity
- To minimize costs and leverage economies of scale by using available research, academic and technical resources through a dedicated network with no need for duplicating investment.
- The fact that students, teaching staff, and researchers use this network will lead to enhanced efficiency and productivity and will boost the concept of creativity and innovation.

Some Arab countries have already established their own NREN, others have started the process. Many Arab countries still do not have any kind of NREN. At the regional level, there is currently no regional research and education network serving the entire Arab research and education community. The only research network connecting Arab countries across the Mediterranean is through the EUMEDCONNECT2 network (www.eumedconnect2.net), which is co-funded by the EC and operated by DANTE.

Building on the achievements of EUMEDCONNECT2, ASREN sets out to widen its geographical footprint by connecting other Arab NRENs in addition to the current seven EUMEDCONNECT2 member countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.