



# **1<sup>st</sup> International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment**

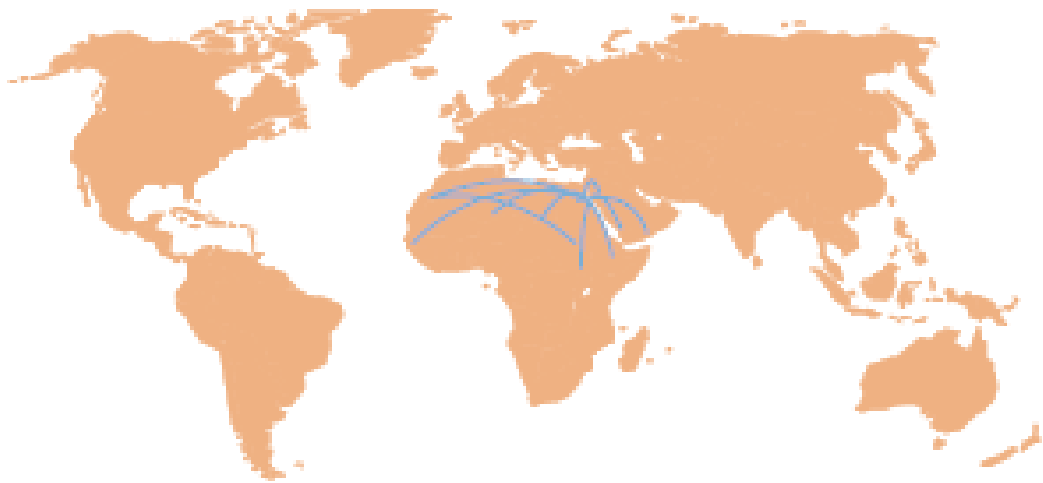
**e-AGE 2011**

**Together We Shape the Future of Research and  
Education Networks**

**Amman - Jordan**

**12-14 December, 2011**

# e-AGE



# e-AGE Declaration

Under the Patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, the 1<sup>st</sup> International platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment was concluded in December 2011.

It has been recognized that the Arab region has attained a certain level of development towards developing advanced e-Infrastructure and it is important for the Arab States Research and Education Network – ASREN to make use of its current potential in strengthening research connectivity and make this potential available for use on a regional scale.

It is our duty at ASREN to provide the necessary e-infrastructure and linking, but then it will be onto the research and educational institutions to build upon and make use of this e-infrastructure, in an efficient manner.

The e-AGE platform organized by ASREN on December 12-14, 2011 has set among its priorities, the development of pan-Arab e-Infrastructure, coordination with regional e-infrastructures, and enhancement of research and education cooperation in a wide range of activities, among the Arab countries and with communities in Europe, the US, Canada, Latin America, Africa, and the world at large.

In addition, it is our objective that a suitable medium for dialogue is created to facilitate investments needed for regional links and capacity for R&E through preparation and execution of national and regional e-Infrastructure projects. It is important that this dialogue and debate are based on objective grounds motivated by the long-term strategies and interests of our countries in the Arab region.

We deem it inspiring that e-AGE was attended by esteemed speakers, policy makers, experts, and scientists representing all the Arab countries, Turkey, Europe, the US, Africa, Latin America, Canada, Asia, and international organizations and companies in a larger audience scale, representing over 30 countries. We see this as a manifestation of the sound basis and the respectable sustainability of the dialogue environment towards developing Arab research and education networks.

It is of the utmost importance that we build on the success of e-AGE and the take necessary steps towards developing Arab e-Infrastructure and linking to the world research and education communities on a global scale.

It is also of great importance that we make use of the support of the League of Arab States, Europe, the US, and the international donors to initiate cooperation and develop sustainable projects towards connectivity and ensurance of a sense of self dependence.

It is of significant value that the Arab, Turkey, and the European NRENs have come together and declared to continue cooperation beyond the EUMEDGRID Support project, and build on

its successes in developing the new Euro-mediterranean e-Infrastructure providing support to scientists and researchers across the two sides of the Mediterranean, in view of the further consolidation of the Arab-Mediterranean networking and grid infrastructure towards an integrated Arab regional operation center and grid resources with strong user and site administrator support system.

After presenting topics, holding meetings and deliberating between delegations and participants, e-AGE concluded,

- To address thank you and appreciation telegraph to His Majesty the King in the name of the participants for his Majesty's support
- To select Jordan as a host of ASREN activities towards developing a regional hub for e-integration of educational networks in the Arab countries.
- To adopt ASREN programs and strategy for the upcoming stage, with focus on a pan-Arab e-infrastructure
- To plan for the second e-AGE in December in 2012, in Doha - Qatar

It was also concluded on a concrete basis:

- To accelerate the integration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the EUMEDConnect project, which is based on supporting integration of e-infrastructure and connecting them with the European Network for Scientific Research.
- To emphasize the importance to extend effective participation of ASREN, integrate Arab unified e-infrastructure and promote the role of research and education communities in the Arab world.
- To support sustainable research and educational network in the Arab region connected with European, the US and other regional networks all over the world.
- To benefit from and build upon the success of EUMED previous meetings in the field of developing cooperation and coordination between Arab and European researchers, and should tackle joint scientific research projects that use scientific infrastructure between countries.
- To encourage and attract donors, research foundations and supporting organizations in the Arab region, Europe and the world to support the ASREN development as well as the research infrastructure in the Arab world.
- To promoting private sector's participation and cooperation in developing research and education.

On behalf of Jordan, the shareholders of ASREN, EUMEDConnect, EUMEDGrid support, and the participating organizations, we thank all who have contributed to e-AGE and we hope that it has successfully served as an effective medium in attaining a convincing environment towards achieving our goals in developing stronger research and education communities in the Arab region and beyond.

With all respect and appreciation,

Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh  
Chairman of ASREN