

HE Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, Chairman of Arab States Research and Education Network, Jordan

HE Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh commenced his speech by expressing his gratitude to HE Mr. Ahmed Abul-Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, for his generous patronage to the 7th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment and the 9th Annual Conference on Quality Assurance and Accreditation, which is considered as a strong support for the hosting of research and education activities and e-Infrastructure networks for the entire Arab region.

HE also expressed his gratitude to the European Commission for its continued support and generous funding for the development of research and education networks in our Arab region, and a special thanks to the Egyptian Universities Network and the Research Network for their sustainable contribution to the development of the e-infrastructure of scientific and knowledge projects.

He continued: “today, there is a growing interest in National Research and Education Networks (NRENS) in Arab countries to join the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN), as well as national research and education networks in Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, Somalia, Iraq and Palestine.

Therefore, we are always looking forward for these NRENS in Arab countries to become a crucial part of ASREN as owners and contributors, to help support and promote the development of research and e-infrastructure in the Arab region.

We highly value ASREN’s continuous efforts to help the Arab region in the development of the National Research and Education Networks and to provide e-infrastructure connectivity among the Arab countries at the regional level.

We recognize now that the first steps involve linking a number of e-infrastructure in Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt with ASREN’s Point of Presence (PoP) in London. This PoP is currently linked to ASREN network and to other research and education networks around the world, and we are pleased to connect the European Network GEANT to all NRENS in the Arab region for research and education purposes and to access research and education resources available on educational networks from this exchange point.

We strongly believe that the continued work on the development of ARENS’s PoP in many Arab countries will contribute to the development of integrated Arab infrastructure.

We are here hoping to launch the Arab Connect Project, which aims to establish high-speed broadband networks linking neighboring Arab countries with regional research and education networks around the world, and to contribute to the development of tools for cooperation and sharing between scientists, researchers and students. And improve the quality of research and education.

Due to the challenges related to the financial cost differentials of intra-border connectivity in Arab countries and their high prices, and due to the lack of adequate investment, we have not yet been able to achieve the ambition of the Arab Connect project, which we hope that the League of Arab States will adopt and put in effect in the next phase.

This prestigious meeting and its outcomes will contribute to the expansion and development of the framework for the effective participation of Arab NRENs, linking them to the organization's Points of Presence towards the development of an Arab e- infrastructure that contributes in enhancing the role of research and education communities in the Arab world.”