

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

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh expressed the utmost appreciation to all who contributed to the success of the conferences under this important and timely patronage. As AUB Alumni, he expressed his gratitude to the American University of Beirut for hosting the conferences, to the League of Arab States for their continuing support, to the European Commission for their generosity and great contributions, to the sponsors of the events, and to all delegations, speakers, and authors from all over the world. He also expressed his appreciation to the president of the Lebanese University for the host of open source software activities in the OSSCOM project framework supported by the EC Tempus.

He also welcomed the delegation of the European Commission and European partners from EUMEDCONNECT3, Africa Connect 2, and MAGIC with great appreciation for their technical and financial support since 2004 and beyond, as well as to the delegation of the Arab countries – Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and the UAE, as partners in developing the Arab research and education network, and quality of education. His Excellency, finally welcomed the delegation of the US Internet2, and representatives of regional research and education network from Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and Canada, with them we will continue to work to develop coordination and interoperations towards a global network for research and education.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his gratitude to the commitment of the European Commission for their continuous support and generous funding to developing research and education networks in the Arab region as well as to OSSCOM in the framework of Tempus. He also expressed his gratitude to the commitment of the 80 university and school members of AROQA for their continuous support to developing the Arab Organization for Quality Assurance in Education.

His Excellency announced the launch of the Lebanese international research and education link via the American University of Beirut to the European GÉANT via ASREN PoP. This builds on a long planning and discussion with AUB and other partners in Lebanon including the national council for scientific research – CNRS. In addition, he announced the launch of the 155 Mega bits per second STM1 Palestine international research and education link to be established via the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to the European GÉANT via ASREN PoP.

His Excellency described the continuation of Jordan's 155 Mega bits per second STM1 link that connects the SESAME project and soon the Jordan University of Science and Technology. ASREN is also coordinating with UbuntuNet Alliance to interconnect the Sudan Research and Education Network to the European Research and Education Network. He also asserted the on-going coordination with the League of Arab States to establish the "Pan-Arab Connect", a long-term Gigabit Ring interconnection with all the Arab Countries and with Europe and the world .

In closing, Dr. Abu- Ghazaleh concluded his speech by saying "This event is an opportunity to consolidate our efforts together towards developing a better network infrastructure, a better open source communities, and a better quality education for a prosperous future of our young people."