

“ASREN is a non-profit company with limited liability (GmbH) and is officially registered in Germany, under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. The main goal is to connect Arab institutions among themselves and to the globe through high-speed data-communications networks. Such networks will enable sharing and access to a variety of R&E services and applications in addition to utilization of highly sophisticated and technologically advanced computing resources available only at very few institutions in the world.”

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e-AGE20 goes virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic



The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) decided to hold its 10th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment (e-AGE20) in a virtual format. The in-person event planned to take place in Tunis, Tunisia has been canceled due to the continued uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virtual conference will be held during 15-16 December 2020. e-AGE20 will be a forum to share practices and experiences that go beyond teaching online courses and sharing resources in today's unprecedented isolation. NRENs and e-Infrastructures provide essential means to stay connected and to meet the new challenges of research and education.

The event will feature the same high-level opening, and three other session with topics that may include

unique experiences of research collaboration, online teaching and learning, resource sharing, assessments, and classroom integration and interaction. Topics may also include the role of NRENs in the COVID-19 crisis and how their global integration have spurred new ways of communication and sharing in addressing challenges at the global scale.

e-AGE20 is coming with “Power of e-Infrastructures - Shaping the Future of Online Research and Education” as the main theme of the conference and all activities are centered on it. The conference program will be announced in due course.

As per tradition, the event will be preceded by pre-conference events including 10th annual shareholders meeting of ASREN and other meetings under the AfricaConnect3 and EUMEDCONNECT3 projects.

Registration for the virtual e-AGE20 conference is now open. More information about the event can be found at the event website: <http://asrenorg.net/eage20/>

AfriGEO Community counts on AfricaConnect3 project for enhanced Internet connectivity

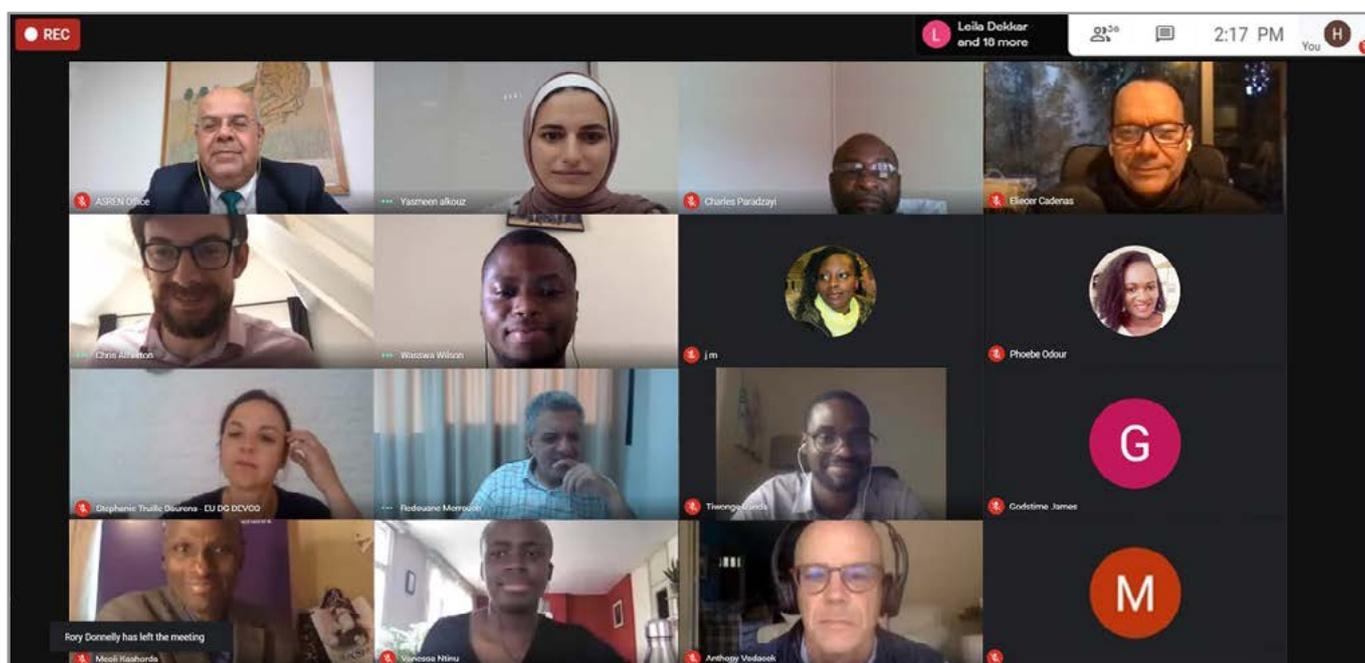
The African Group on Earth Observation (AfriGEO) community, a member of the global Group on Earth Observation (GEO), says it expects the AfricaConnect3 project, a Pan-African project aimed at creating an internet network for research and education across Africa, to boost internet connectivity in the community’s sites in Africa.

GEO is a unique global network connecting government institutions, academic and research institutions, data providers, businesses, engineers, scientists and experts to create innovative solutions to global challenges at a time of exponential data growth, human development and climate change that transcend national and disciplinary boundaries.

The AfriGEO initiative, developed within the GEO framework, works on supporting decision making through the provision of coordinated, comprehensive and sustained information by among other areas, linking earth observation resources worldwide across multiple Societal Benefit Areas like biodiversity, disaster resilience and water resources management.

And while the obtaining of such information which comes in heavy data sets requires robust connectivity, AfriGEO sites have been facing a major setback due to challenges brought by unreliable and high cost internet connectivity in their sites.

To address this gap, the AfricaConnect3 project, whose agreement between the European



Commission, the funding entity and the three African Regional Research and Education Networks was signed in November 2019 included AfriGEO sites as strategic partners that should benefit from the project.

Under the Initiative, which is being led by the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) AfriGEO sites are being encouraged to connect to National Research and Education Networks of their host countries.

To kick start the initiative, the three Regional RENs, in collaboration with GEANT and the EU held an online collaborative workshop on 19th August 2020 where stakeholders were unanimous in emphasizing the importance of connecting AfriGEO sites to National Research and Education Networks under the AfricaConnect3 Project.

Speaking during the webinar, which was attended by the EU DEVCO representative

Stephanie Traulle-Baurens, Phoebe Odour from the AfriGEO Secretariat at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Nairobi, Kenya, admitted that AfriGEO centers are being affected by poor connectivity and that the community believes that the AfricaConnect3 project will go a long way in solving these problems.

“An assessment done by the International Monetary Fund reveals that many countries in Africa still have connectivity issues especially in the least developed countries. This means that our working groups in those countries are not spared. It is therefore our hope that AfricaConnect3 will address issues of high data cost and lack of infrastructure for internet access,” said Odour.

Speaking on behalf of the three African regional Research and Education Networks, ASREN CEO, Yousef Torman encouraged members of the AfriGEO community to accelerate

collaboration with NRENs in their respective countries to benefit from high speed and affordable connectivity as well as other valued added services such as eduroam under the AfricaConnect3 project.

to ensure that this collaboration opportunity is exploited and that all AfriGEO sites in Africa have the required connectivity to enable them play their roles in facilitating socio-economic development on the continent,” said Torman.

“The AfricaConnect3 has a dedicated package for collaboration with the AfriGEO community and it is the wish of the three regional networks

Source: <https://ubuntunet.net/2020/09/afrigeo-community-counts-on-africaconnect3-project-for-enhanced-internet-connectivity/>

AfricaConnect3 to feature at Paris Peace Forum 2020



After a competitive selection process with over 850 applications, the AfricaConnect3 project has been selected as one of the 100 projects to be showcased at the third edition of the Paris Peace Forum 2020.

The Paris Peace Forum is a prestigious event that seeks to advance governance solutions, scale-up projects and launch new initiatives in wide range of areas including new technologies and education.

This year the Forum is focusing on three priorities: the governance of health, the use and regulation of digital tools and platforms to respond to the crisis, and the support of civil society and economic activity in times of pandemics.

The AfricaConnect3 project was selected under the banner of new technologies. The event presents a fine opportunity to showcase the unique value of the project as well as the impact of research and education networks in Africa on sustainable development in front of a multi-stakeholder online and physical audience.

WACREN will represent the AfricaConnect3 project partners: Ubuntunet Alliance, ASREN and GÉANT from the 11th to the 13th of November 2020.

For more information on the event, visit <https://parispeaceforum.org/2020-selected-projects/>

Source: <https://www.africconnect3.net/africconnect3-to-feature-at-paris-peace-forum-2020/>



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