

“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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ASREN Joins MANRS to Improve Routing Security



On Thursday 22nd, October, 2020, ASREN joined Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS), a global initiative supported by the Internet Society (ISOC) that aims at greatly improving the security and reliability of the global Internet routing system.

ASREN chose to join this initiative as a step forward to achieve a more robust and secure routing infrastructure in the Arab region, to reduce the most common routing threats that have for a longtime caused network outage, data losses and cost implications to many victims on the internet.

In joining MANRS, ASREN had to implement four simple but concrete actions as a network operator to

address common challenges related to routing security:

- Filtering – Implementing filtering to prevent the propagation of incorrect routing information.
- Anti-spoofing – Enabling source address validation for at least single-homed stub customer networks, end-users, and infrastructure.
- Coordination – Maintaining globally accessible up-to-date contact information.
- Global Validation – Publishing data, so others can validate routing information on a global scale.

Having fulfilled most requirements, ASREN was duly accepted to be part of the great initiative. ASREN is one of the first networks in the Arab region to join MANRS, demonstrating our strong commitment towards ensuring that education and research institutions in the Arab world operate in secure cyber space.

For more information on MANRS, visit <https://www.manrs.org>.

e-AGE20 Call for Participation: Power of e-Infrastructures



ASREN
CELEBRATING A DECADE OF SUCCESS

e-AGE20
“Power of e-Infrastructures –
Shaping the Future of Online
Research and Education”

Virtual Conference
15 - 16 December 2020

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The image is a promotional banner for the e-AGE20 virtual conference. It features a white background with large orange and blue curved shapes on the left and right sides. In the center, there is a white circle containing the ASREN logo (a stylized '10' with 'Years' written below it) and the text 'ASREN CELEBRATING A DECADE OF SUCCESS'. Below this, the text 'e-AGE20' is written in large, bold, orange and blue letters, followed by the subtitle '“Power of e-Infrastructures – Shaping the Future of Online Research and Education”' in a smaller font. At the bottom of the circle, it says 'Virtual Conference' in orange and '15 - 16 December 2020' in blue. To the left of the circle, the words 'CALL FOR PARTICIPATION' are written in large, bold, blue capital letters. On the right side of the banner, there is a vertical image of a building facade with a yellow light fixture.

e-AGE20, the 10th edition of the International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment will be held virtually during 15-16 December 2020. Its focus will be on the role of e-Infrastructures in the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. e-AGE20 is also supported by the EU co-funded projects AfricaConnect3 and EUMEDCONNECT3.

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.

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 full program will be announced in due course.

The event will comprise a high-level opening featuring CEOs of RRENs from around the world, and three other sessions with topics on the complex global phenomenon and scientific challenges of COVID-19 pandemic. Topics may also include the role of NRENs in the crisis and how their global integration has spurred new ways of communication and sharing in addressing the challenges at the global scale.

As per tradition, the event will be preceded by pre-conference meetings including ASREN NRENs Community meeting and other meetings under the AfricaConnect3 and EUMEDCONNECT3 projects, and it will be followed by three workshops on LIBSENSE, ORCID and Routing Security with ISOC.

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

More about LIBSENSE with Omo Oaiya

Omo Oaiya, Chief Strategy Officer at WACREN – the West and Central Africa Research and Education Network – was interviewed by the GÉANT’s CONNECT magazine on the relatively new collaboration called LIBSENSE.

In the interview, Omo Oaiya introduced the initiative and its history: “LIBSENSE is a collaboration between libraries and NRENs, launched in 2016, to develop sustainable and relevant approaches for Open Access and Open Science in the African context.”



He emphasized on the benefits of LIBSENSE to researchers in Africa: “Making scientific processes and results more transparent and accessible in the Open Science paradigm allows others to evaluate, use, and analyze them in new ways, which speed up scientific discoveries, reduce redundancy of experiments, and provides a mechanism for innovation, social justice and economic growth. LIBSENSE aims to increase capacity to support, maintain, deploy and reconfigure digital scholarship services which directly benefit researchers.”

At the end, Omo Oaiya discussed the next steps for LIBSENSE: “The LIBSENSE initiative has drafted templates for data exchange model agreements that cover the data acquisition policy for aggregators and data usage policy. Draft metadata guidelines to ensure interoperability across African repositories have also been released for public comments. The next step will be to continue the advocacy and community building around strategic development of Open Access publishing and e-research infrastructure. This will be complemented with training programs targeting digital skills needed by the librarians and researchers as well as workshops targeting senior university management who make decisions regarding investment in these digital services to raise awareness of the importance of the Open Access and Open Science.”

Read more at: <https://connect.geant.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Interview-Libsense.pdf>

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