

UPDATE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF WACREN

**regional REN for West and Central
Africa**

**Building a Research and Education Network Infrastructure in Africa
IST- Africa Conference:- 20th May 2009**

WACREN

- * Incubated since AfNOG 2006
- * Initial efforts targeted at building capacity in member NRENs
- * Regional consultative meeting in Nov '09 as pre-event to OAC '09 - attended by 10 member countries
- * Similar conclusions to FEAST and agreement to speed up establishment of WACREN in open and inclusive manner.
- * AAU facilitated process to produce core documents for incorporation by May 2010 established.

Working Groups

- * Administrative Structure, Governance and Finance
- * Connectivity and Infrastructure, Regulatory aspects
- * Strategies for Implementation, Partnerships
- * Content and Applications
- * Capacity Building

WACREN UPDATE

- * WACREN Website launched - www.wacren.net
- * Draft outputs from some of the working groups published on website and comments requested from R&E networking community.
- * Next update planned for AfREN meeting at AfNOG-2010 in Kigali.

WACREN NREN UPDATE

- * GARNET (Ghana) - Policy dialogue ongoing; establishment of 2 working groups (policy and architecture); NREN expected to be formed by Q2 of 2010
- * Mandate given by the VC Ghana (association of VCs of public universities) to a Convener to drive the process. Consultations ongoing right now for 2-3 VCs to register GARNET and form an interim board.

....WACREN NREN UPDATE

- * Senegal (RENER) - Policy dialogue ongoing. Meeting of actors and decision makers held in July 2009; target for establishment of the snREN: April 2010.
- * Task Group mandated by the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research to go ahead with development of core document and register the NREN.

....WACREN NREN UPDATE

- * Cameroonian REN - (embryo exists with RIC)
Commitment of government. Policy dialogue meeting in December 2009. National policy development workshop organised in December 2009 in cooperation with AAU.
- * Côte d'Ivoire - Policy dialogue ongoing despite difficult political situation
- * Togo and Benin - Policy development workshops planned for October and November 2010

....WACREN NREN UPDATE

- * ngREN (Nigeria) - new process led by the Nigerian Universities Commission with World Bank assistance. Increased involvement of policy makers, regulators and telcos.
- * Commitment of VCs to have it established by end of 2008 renewed.
- * Funding proposal to WB for access to dark fibre capacity to connect institutions
- * Parallel move towards a cluster approach adopted to cope with magnitude of task

WACREN Challenges

- * Resources for capacity building to support establishment of WACREN and NREN initiatives in the region
- * Awareness at executive layer in Education and Government of the importance of R&E Networking for development
- * Keeping pace with regional activity in other parts of Africa

Moving Forward

- * Solicit and harness community and stakeholder input into WACREN establishment
- * Increase collaboration with UbuntuNet Alliance with aim to replicate momentum in South and Eastern African NRENs and promote AfREN
- * Seek partnerships to accelerate development of research infrastructures and demonstrator applications
- * Seek endorsement by regional policy makers and regulators

THANK YOU!

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