

**Workshop for Maghreb countries to promote the development and implementation of
Conformity Assessment programs, Tunis (Tunisia), 9-11 December 2014**

Arab Regional Initiatives and Projects 2011-2014, 2015-2018

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RI 1: Broadband Connectivity: To assist Member States in the development of broadband access in urban and rural areas

- ✓ Various face to face and online workshops on issues related BB Networks.
- ✓ Assistance provided to several countries; including Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen and Mauritania, on the development of NBM plans.
- ✓ Regulatory and Financial forums held on building and financing NGNs and IMTs.
- ✓ Wireless Broadband project in Djibouti implemented. Another similar project for fishermen done in Mauritania.
- ✓ IXP implementation in the Arab region in partnership with LAS.
- ✓ Promotion of Cloud Computing with AREGNET through a pilot project with various stakeholders.
- ✓ C&I capacity building and assessment study for Magreb countries.
- ✓ Schools connectivity in countries, such as Comoros and Palestine.

RI 2: Digital Broadcasting: To assist ITU Member States towards a smooth and timely transition from analogue to digital broadcasting to take advantage of the digital dividend

- ✓ Assistance was carried out in partnership with key regional players - (ASBU), (AICTO), (ASMG).
- ✓ Development of a road map for digital television transition in the Arab Region in 2012
- ✓ Workshop on the digital switchover and digital dividend in Khartoum (Sudan) in December 2013.
- ✓ Regional Forum on Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Services in Dubai April 2014.
- ✓ Organized Arab coordination Meeting for the modification of the frequency plan (GE06) terrestrial television broadcasting - Dubai April 2014
- ✓ Direct assistance to ensure a smooth transition from analogue to digital is being provided to Lebanon, Sudan, Mauritania and Palestine.

RI 3: Open Source Software: To develop free and open source software and ensure its availability for SMEs in the Arab region

- ✓ Free and Open Source Software Centre (FOSS) was established with ITU support in Tunisia in 2012
- ✓ A regional network of FOSS Centres has been set up. It aims to disseminate free open-source software and manage a portal that will provide a link to related resources and relevant news in Arabic.
- ✓ FOSS regional network website will be launched by the end of 2014 and will be hosted and run by the MCIT of Egypt.
- ✓ Current stakeholders include, Egypt, Oman, Tunis as well as academia and private sector members from the region.

RI 4: Arab Digital Content (ADC): To contribute to and enhance the provision of Arabic Digital Content on the web

- ✓ Registration of a Top-Level Domain for the Arab Region (.arab) – Arabic and Latin strings.
- ✓ In Partnership with Egypt, established “Memory of the Arab World” project, to preserve Arab cultural and natural heritage.
- ✓ With the support of Bahrain TRA, launched a regional competition on ADC. Awards were given during WTDC-14.
- ✓ A report on ADC was published in partnership with UNESCWA during the WSIS +10 High Level Event in 2014.
- ✓ Second forum on ADC to be held in Egypt from 6-7 Nov 2014 on challenges of increasing content.
- ✓ Similar forum held in Egypt in Dec. 2013.

RI 5: Cybersecurity : To enhance coordination in building confidence in the use of Information and Communication Technologies within the Arab region

- ✓ Regional Cybersecurity Centre launched in March 2013, in collaboration with IMPACT and ITA of Oman.
- ✓ CIRT assessment missions carried out to Lebanon, Djibouti and Mauritania.
- ✓ Assessment missions being carried out for Jordan, Palestine and Comoros.
- ✓ Assessment mission to Sudan for the establishment of a national forensic laboratory.
- ✓ Several Cyber drills carried out in the region to test capabilities of CITS.
- ✓ Assistance to Lebanon on establishing a national CIRT. Similar approach for Palestine in 2015.
- ✓ Developed a draft regional COP legal framework being approved and to be submitted to Council of Ministers.

Regional Projects

- Implemented Projects:
 - Dot Arab domain name registration
 - Regional project on ICT indicators
 - “Connect a School, Connect a Community” for Comoros
 - “Connect a School, Connect a Community – Phase I” for Palestine
 - Wireless Broadband Network in Djibouti
 - ITU-CISCO Tele-presence project (Djibouti and Mauritania)
 - Arabization of ICT Terminology
 - Memory of Arab World
- On-Going Projects:
 - ITU COE Project for Arab region
 - National Lebanon CIRT
 - Saudi Spectrum Advisory Services Project
 - Regional Cybersecurity Innovation Centre for the Arab region Project
 - “Connect a School, Connect a Community – Phase II” for Palestine

The Arab Regional Initiatives adopted for the period 2015-2018 are as follows

- **Regional Initiative 1:** Development of broadband access and adoption of broadband
- **Regional Initiative 2:** Building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs
- **Regional Initiative 3:** Use of telecommunications/ICTs for smart and sustainable development and protection of the environment
- **Regional Initiative 4:** Smart learning
- **Regional Initiative 5:** Ensuring access to telecommunications/ICTs, in particular for persons with disabilities

THANK YOU

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