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# REGIONAL INITIATIVES

## **Implementation of WTDC 10 Regional Initiatives for the Arab States**

ITU Arab Regional Office

## **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 National Broadband Master 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 and collaboration with other regional entities.
- ✓ Assistance to LAS in the implementation of Dot Arab TLDs project in collaboration with UNESCWA and TRA UAE.
- ✓ Promotion of Cloud Computing Technology through development of Guidelines and a pilot project in partnership with AREGNET, ALECSO and 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 to countries 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 was provided to Lebanon and will be extended to Sudan, Mauritania and Palestine.

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### **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 already designed and will be launched in April 2015. It will be kindly hosted and run by the MCIT of Egypt.
- ✓ Current stakeholders include, Egypt, Oman, Tunis, Palestine and Lebanon as well as academia and private sector members from the region.

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## **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.
- ✓ Two forums on ADC were held in Egypt, Dec 2013 and Nov 2014 on challenges of increasing content. Due to it’s success the Arab Council of ICT Ministers approved organizing the forum on an annual basis. The next forum will take place in the last quarter of 2015 (location to be confirmed).

## **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 for Lebanon, Djibouti and Mauritania, 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 CIRTs.
- ✓ 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 the Arab Council of ICT Ministers.
- ✓ Capacity building on Cybersecurity provided to Mauritania and Comoros within the framework of the LDCs Infrastructure Protection Programme project.



## 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)
  - Memory of Arab World
- On-Going Projects:
  - ITU COE Project for Arab region new phase
  - Saudi Spectrum Advisory Services Project
  - Regional Cybersecurity Innovation Centre for the Arab region Project
  - “Connect a School, Connect a Community – Phase II” for Palestine

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# THANK YOU

## Open Discussion