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Report on the three National Policy Development Workshops and the regional High-Level Policy Development Workshop



TANDEM
TRANSAFRICAN NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

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GLOSSARY / LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
GARNET	Ghanaian Academic and Research Network
NREN	National Research and Education Network
PODWAG	Policy makers, Donors, regulatory authorities of West and Central Africa Group
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
TetFund	Tertiary Education Trust Fund
NITA	National Information Technology Agency

Introduction

This document, *D2.2 – Report on the three national workshop* is a deliverable of the TANDEM project, which is funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Programme under Grant Agreement #654206. TANDEM aims at supporting dialogue between the EU and African Research and Education Networks, with special attention to Western and Central Africa, which at e-Infrastructure level is coordinated by the Western and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN). The scope of the project is to promote cooperation by exploiting the interconnection between the European research and education network (GÉANT) and the established African regional networks.

The present document is the report of:

- the national workshop held in Ghana, on November 6, 2015, at Ghana University (Legon);
- the national workshop held in Dakar, on March 14, 2016 at Novotel Dakar;
- the national workshop held on November 10, 2016 at National Universities Commission of Nigeria, Abuja.

1. National and Regional Workshop, Accra, 5-6 november 2015

1.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1.1.1. Acknowledgements

The TANDEM project wishes to thank the University of Ghanaian Academic and Research Network (GARNET) for hosting the first National Workshop of the project.

1.1.2. Introductory remarks

The workshop held on 5-6 November 2015 was the first of a series of three national workshops to be organised during the lifetime of the project. It was also the opportunity to have a meeting of the Focal Points of all NRENs in the WACREN region who act as interface between the project and the community of end-users.

The first PODWAG meeting was also organised on 5 November in the framework of the national workshop. The PODWAG is composed of 20 high-profile members who have an advisory role to the TANDEM project due to their fields of expertise.

Almost all TANDEM consortium partners could make it to attend the event: IRD, WACREN, UbuntuNet Alliance, GÉANT, RENATER, CIRAD, Brunel University and CLARA.

1.2. OBJECTIVES, FORMAT AND PROGRAMME

1.2.1. Event objectives

The main objective of the national workshop was to inform the community of end-users (lecturers, researchers, students) in Ghana about the project and encourage them to be actively involved in the project activities. Another objective of the workshop was also to provide an opportunity for engagement for the community of users and between the community of users and GARNET.

1.2.2. Event format

The workshop was organised in the form of presentations followed by discussions. It was very interactive, allowing extensive and lively discussions. The workshop language was English, also French-speaking participants was encouraged to participate in the discussions in the language of their choice (English or French). Bilingual participants volunteered to summarize contributions made in French.

1.2.3. Event programme

The event programme is reproduced below:

Session 1 - Facilitator: Nii Quaynor (Board Chair, WACREN)	
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome addresses
09:15 - 10:00	GARNET Update – Prof. Mumuni Dakubu, GARNET
10:00 - 10:30	WACREN Update – Boubakar Barry, WACREN
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break and Group photograph
Session 2 - Facilitator: Mumuni Dakubu (CEO, GARNET)	
11:00 - 11:30	The TANDEM Project and related H2020 projects – Damien Alline, IRD
11:30 - 12:00	Promoting Regional Connectivity in Africa – the role of the World Bank <i>Mavis Ampah, World Bank</i>
12:00 - 12:30	UK's JANET Establishment – Lessons for GARNET <i>Francis Boachie, University of Ghana</i>
12:30 - 13:00	Building a Regional Research and Education Network: Lessons from UbuntuNet Alliance <i>Tiwonge Banda, UbuntuNet Alliance</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
Session 3 - Facilitator: Lucas Chigabatia (Chief IT Officer, University of Ghana)	
14:00 - 14:30	Advanced Networks Case Studies: Activities for the collaboration <i>Sabine Jaume-Rajaonia, RENATER</i>
14:30 - 15:00	National Research and Education Networks in LA: creating value for the development of science, technology and education <i>Carmen Labbe, RedCLARA</i>
15:00 - 15:30	Advanced Networks at regional and global level: Infrastructure, services, opportunities, benefits <i>Tom Fryer, GÉANT</i>
Session 4 - Facilitator: Nii Quaynor (Board Chair, WACREN)	
15:30 - 16:00	GARNET and its Community: Way forward
16:00 - 16:15	Closing
16:15 - 16:45	Refreshments and networking

The programme was executed as planned.

1.3. EVENT PARTICIPATION, PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION

1.3.1 Attendance

The workshop was attended by end-users of the GARNET community, representative of NRENs in the WACREN region who act as Focal Points for the project, PODWAG members and representatives of members of the project consortium.

In total, 58 participants attended the workshop.

1.3.2. Event promotion and dissemination

The event was mostly promoted through GARNET to get participation of end-users in Ghanaian higher education and research institutions.

It gave the opportunity to inform about the project and to hand out marketing materials (flyers on TANDEM and posters on the TANDEM survey).

Each of the Focal Points was also provided with 100+ posters for the promotion of the TANDEM survey in their various countries.

1.4. WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS AND OUTCOMES

National Workshop

The national workshop gave the opportunity to the GARNET community to learn from experiences of various countries and world regions. The experiences from Eastern and Southern Africa (UbuntuNet Alliance), Latin America (CLARA), Europe in general (GÉANT) and France (RENATER) and the United Kingdom (JANET) in particular led to a lively discussion on the current state of GARNET.

The GARNET community resolved to move from declarations of intention to concrete actions and made the decision that by mid-December, equipment will be installed at space made available in a datacenter and that 2 institutions will be interconnected by that deadline.

Although the deadline was not met, the equipment meant to interconnect GARNET members was successfully installed at the data center of the National Information Technology Agency (NITA). It is a concrete outcome of the workshop.

It is also worth mentioning that the presentation made by the representative of the World Bank and the discussion that followed revealed that there is an opportunity for GARNET's contribution for participation in the AfricaConnect2 project being paid through a higher education project funded by the World Bank.

This also applies to the other countries in the region where the World Bank is funding projects on higher education. To date, MaliREN's contribution has been paid through a World Bank funded higher education project in Mali. The World Bank has also expressed a no-objection for FasoREN's contribution to be paid from a similar project in Burkina Faso. These are concrete and positive outcomes of the workshop.

Community Workshop

Although it was also attended by the participants of the National workshop, the Community workshop focused on the role of the NREN Focal Points. It also featured a training session on the use of the WACREN collaborative platform (<https://community.wacren.net>).

Focal Points of all NRENs members of WACREN participated in the workshop.

There was an opportunity to discuss the TANDEM survey on end-user needs. Although it was noted that the survey is quite long, strategies were developed to get as many lecturers and researchers as possible to participate in the survey.

The Focal Points also held a separate meeting to refine the discussed strategies and develop an action plan.

PODWAG meeting

Members of PODWAG also held their first meeting during the Accra event and the meeting was facilitated by WACREN Board Chair.

The meeting was mainly dedicated to PODWAG members to meet face-to-face and to get briefed on the TANDEM project. Although not all members could make it to Accra, a representative number of members was present, including representatives of ECOWAS, governments, the World Bank, universities, regional research centers and telecom operators. The members present indicated how they could support and contribute based on their fields of expertise and identified the working groups in which they would like to join.

All participants acknowledged the importance of the project and committed themselves to support it.

In particular, PODWAG members found that WACREN has the advantage of being a non-profit, not political-bound organisation. As such, government, companies and other organisations are more likely to grant support.

ECOWAS proposed to provide support in the following areas: i) policy (submission of proposed policy proposals to governments of the member states); ii) regulation (taking into account research and education networks issues in decisions taken in the framework of the telecom harmonisation process in the region); iii) fundraising through recommendations from ECOWAS.

The telecommunications operators attending the meeting also expressed their willingness to work with WACREN on a win-win basis. They admitted that they didn't really understand the NREN business model and that the meeting allowed them to understand more the need to work together as partner. They expressed the wish to continue the dialogue between WACREN and them, as it is necessary to convince top management of the telecommunications operators to see NRENs as partners rather than as competitors.

Telecommunications operators must feel and see that a partnership with NRENs is profitable for their business as NRENs do stimulate the market. One connectivity provider present in the room even announced that it has offered one year free connectivity to GARNET, the Ghanaian NREN.

Representatives of universities and research institutions stressed out the need to reach out to the end users. It is key to address end-users needs, as it's that way that they can be actively involved and support REN initiatives. They indicated that providing adequate connectivity in the region would dramatically improve their research environment.

Representatives of governments assured support to their respective NREN to be actively involved in WACREN and to find a way for their NRENS to be part of the AfricaConnect2 project.

In the same vein, the representative of the World Bank informed that the World Bank is more than willing to assist countries in joining the AfricaConnect2 project. In particular, the World Bank will suggest and encourage countries in which it has programmes for support to higher education to use funds made available to pay the counter-funding participation of these countries to join the project.

Finally, the members of PODWAG committed themselves to participate in further discussion and recommended to reach out to Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). A member of PODWAG and former Minister of Higher Education of Cameroon volunteered to help on this.

ANNEX 1

The list of participants (58 in total) is appended as Annex 1.

#	Participants	Institution	Country
1	Eugène C. Ezin	Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (PODWAG)	Bénin
2	Gilles Kounou	RerBenin (Focal Point)	Bénin
3	Didier Bassole	FasoREN (Focal Point)	Burkina Faso
4	Bi Kona Hans Gwet	RIC (Focal Point)	Cameroun
5	Maurice Tchuenta	University of Buea (PODWAG)	Cameroun
6	Carmen Gloria Labbé	CLARA	Chile
7	Daouda Meite	RITER (Focal Point)	Côte d'Ivoire
8	Joël Sor	CIRAD	France
9	Philippe Granier	CIRAD	France
10	Agnès Carbon	IRD	France
11	Damien Alline	IRD	France
12	Michel Labadie	IRD	France
13	Sabine Jaume	RENATER	France
14	Balira Ousmane Konfe	GabonREN (Focal Point)	Gabon
15	Augustin Frimpong	AIMS Ghana	Ghana
16	Emmanuel K. Essel	AIMS Ghana	Ghana
17	Evelyn Arthur Anto	AIMS Ghana	Ghana
18	Ato Yawson	Ashesi University College	Ghana
19	Nina Chachu	Ashesi University College	Ghana
20	Charles Annoh	Central University College	Ghana
21	Joel K. Appiah	Central University College	Ghana
22	Joseph Marfo-Gyimah	Central University College	Ghana
23	Justice Djokoto	Central University College	Ghana
24	Samuel Asare Ampafo	Central University College	Ghana
25	E. K. Ofou	CSIR	Ghana
26	Benjamin Eshun	GARNET	Ghana
27	Derek Obuobi	Globacom (PODWAG)	Ghana
28	Joseph Odoi	Globacom (PODWAG)	Ghana
29	Michael Poh	MainOne (PODWAG)	Ghana
30	E. Obeng Adjei	UHAS	Ghana
31	John K. E. Edumadze	University of Cape Coast	Ghana
32	Emelia Nartey	University of Ghana	Ghana
33	Francis K. Boachie	University of Ghana	Ghana
34	Lucas Chigabatia	University of Ghana	Ghana
35	Mary Acquah	University of Ghana	Ghana
36	Patrick K. Arthur	University of Ghana	Ghana
37	Solomon Asante Dartey	University of Ghana	Ghana

38	Sunu Solomon Kwame	University of Ghana	Ghana
39	Emmanuel K. Eshun	University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa	Ghana
40	Felix Larbi Aryeh	University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa	Ghana
41	Ezekiel Okoe	Valley View University	Ghana
42	Boubakar Barry	WACREN	Ghana
43	Nii N. Quaynor	WACREN	Ghana
44	Omo Oaiya	WACREN	Ghana
45	Gerald Forkuor	WASCAL (PODWAG)	Ghana
46	Mavis Ampah	World Bank (PODWAG)	Ghana
47	Tiwonge Banda	UbuntuNet Alliance	Malawi
48	Ibourahima Keita	MaliREN (Focal Point)	Mali
49	Modibo Sangare	MRTC (PODWAG)	Mali
50	Ali Hamadou	NigerREN (Focal Point)	Niger
51	Claude Akotegno	ECOWAS (PODWAG)	Nigeria
52	Laide Olanlokun	NgREN (Focal Point)	Nigeria
53	Maïssa Mbaye	snRER (Focal Point)	Sénégal
54	Ama Dzifa Gameti	Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (PODWAG)	Togo
55	Barerem Melgueba Mao	TogoRER (Focal Point)	Togo
56	Eyouleki T. G. Palanga	TogoRER	Togo
57	Anastasia Anagnostou	Brunel University	UK
58	Thomas Fryer	GÉANT	UK

2. National and Regional Workshop, Dakar, 16 march 2016

2.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

2.1.1. Acknowledgements

The TANDEM project wishes to thank WACREN and snRER for hosting the second National Workshop of the project during its annual conference.

2.1.2. Introductory remarks

The workshop organized on 16 March 2016 is the second of a series of three national workshops to be organised during the lifetime of the project.

Almost all TANDEM consortium partners could make it to attend the event: IRD, WACREN, UbuntuNet Alliance, GÉANT, RENATER, CIRAD, Brunel University and CLARA.

2.2. OBJECTIVES, FORMAT AND PROGRAMME

2.2.1 Event objectives

The main objective of the national workshop was to inform the community of end-users in Dakar about the project and encourage them to be actively involved in the project activities.

2.2.2 Event format

The workshop was organised in the form of presentations followed by discussions. It was very interactive, allowing extensive and lively discussions. The workshop language was English, but French-speaking participants were encouraged to participate in the discussions in the language of their choice (English or French). Bilingual participants volunteered to summarize contributions made in French.

2.2.3 Event programme

The event programme is reproduced below:

09:00 - 09:10	Welcome remarks from snRER, WACREN, TANDEM
09:10 - 09:40	snRER Update <i>Dr. Ibrahima NIANG, snRER</i>
09:40 - 10:10	WACREN Update <i>Dr. Boubakar Barry (WACREN)</i>
10:10- 10:30	TANDEM Update <i>Mr. Damien Alline (IRD)</i>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee, Networking & Group Photo

11:00 - 11:30	TANDEM Survey Preliminary Findings <i>Dr. Simon Taylor (Brunel University London, UK)</i>
11:30 - 12:00	Computational Complexity and Resource needs in Genomic Data Analysis <i>Dr. Chiekh Loucoubar (l'Institut Pasteur de Dakar)</i>
12:00 - 12:30	Spatial and monitoring environmental phenomena from satellite images <i>Dr. Dah DIENG (Université Gaston Berger)</i>
12:30 - 13:00	Regional Research Platform on Climate Change, Environment and Rural Societies <i>Dr. Jean-Luc Chotte (IRD)</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:30	NRENs and e-Infrastructure as a Rescue for the Atmospheric Sciences <i>Prof. Gbenga Jegede (Atmospheric Physics Research Group, OAU, Ile-Ife, Nigeria)</i>
14:30 - 15:00	WiABox 2507: Project Initiative for an Open Wireless Access Technology alternative for Broadband Internet access in rural areas <i>Prof. Thomas Djotio Ndié (Inria IoT4D Associate Team's International Principal Investigator)</i>
15:00 - 15:30	WACREN Focal Point Network <i>Dr. Eyouléki T. G. Venant PALANGA (WACREN)</i>
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee & Networking

The programme was executed as planned.

2.3. EVENT PARTICIPATION, PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION

2.3.1 Attendance

The workshop was attended by end-users of the WACREN community, representative of NRENs in the WACREN region who act as Focal Points for the project, PODWAG members and representatives of members of the project consortium.

In total, 90 participants attended the workshop.

2.3.2 Event promotion and dissemination

The event was mostly promoted to get participation of end-users in higher education and research institutions.

It gave the opportunity to inform about the project and to hand out marketing materials (TANDEM flyers).

Brunel University took benefit of the assistance to disseminate a one-page questionnaire, in order to collect prioritisation on NREN services in the frame of WP3 undergoing work.

2.4. WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS AND OUTCOMES

The National Workshop

The national workshop gave the opportunity to Brunel University to present the results of the National Research and Education Network Survey that was launched in order to collect the End User's needs (Task 3.2). The survey has clearly identified that cheaper, faster networking is the critical service that a NREN organisation work towards. Brunel stated that as the survey was open until the end of March, the answers could be increased and all result will be reported in Deliverable 3.2.

The experiences from the scientific project presented during the national workshop showed the high interest of researchers in data sharing, open access and networking and how the deployment of infrastructures promoted by Tandem project would clearly allow them to participate in global issues (<https://indico.wacren.net/event/24/>).

Regional Workshop

The regional workshop was organised on 15 March 2016 in collaboration with the Sci-GaIA project, with participation of researchers from the WACREN region. The experiences from the scientific projects presented during the regional workshop showed the benefit of belonging to an NREN and the need of connectivity in West and Central Africa (<https://indico.wacren.net/event/23/session/0/contribution/0/material/slides/0.pdf>).

PODWAG

A PODWAG meeting was also organised on 16 March 2016. It gave the opportunity to review the discussions held online so far that are expected to lead to recommendations on policy, regulatory and financial issues.

The Commissioner for Human Development of UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine), member of PODWAG, committed himself to facilitate the invitation of WACREN CEO to the next Ministerial Meeting of CAMES (Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Supérieur) to be held in Dakar in May 2016.

This led the WACREN CEO to be invited to the ministerial meeting on 4 May 2016 and to make a presentation on WACREN and AfricaConnect 2.

It is worth mentioning that all these events were organised as side event of the WACREN 2016 Conference and the WACREN Annual General Meeting, with ca. 120 attendees, including high-level officials of Senegal and regional organisations.

ANNEX 2

The list of participants (89 in total) is appended as Annex 2.

#	Participants	Institution	Country
1	Eugène C. Ezin	Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (Podwag)	Bénin
2	Gilles Kounou	RerBenin (Focal Point)	Bénin
3	Bi Kona Hans Gwet	RIC (Focal Point)	Cameroun
4	Carmen Gloria Labbé	CLARA	Chile
5	Daouda Meite	RITER (Focal Point)	Côte d'Ivoire
6	Joël Sor	CIRAD	France
7	Philippe Granier	CIRAD	France
8	Agnès Carbon	IRD	France
9	Damien Alline	IRD	France
10	Michel Labadie	IRD	France
11	Sabine Jaume	RENATER	France
12	Balira Ousmane Konfe	GabonREN (Focal Point)	Gabon
13	Benjamin Eshun	GARNET	Ghana
14	Boubakar Barry	WACREN	Ghana
15	Nii N. Quaynor	WACREN	Ghana
16	Omo Oaiya	WACREN	Ghana
17	Tiwonge Banda	UbuntuNet Alliance	Malawi
18	Ibourahima Keita	MaliREN (Focal Point)	Mali
19	Modibo Sangare	FROS/USTTB/MALI	Mali
20	Ali Hamadou	NigerREN (Focal Point)	Niger
21	Laide Olanlokun	NgREN (Focal Point)	Nigeria
22	Maïssa Mbaye	snRER (Focal Point)	Sénégal
23	Ama Dzifa Gameti	Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (Podwag)	Togo
24	Eyouleki T. G. Palanga	TogoRER	Togo
25	Ibrahim NIANG	SNRER	Sénégal
26	Wei Sun	Howard University	USA
27	Heather Flanagan	NSRC	USA
28	Lucy Lynch	NSRC	USA
29	Anna Saine	NSRC	USA
30	Cathrin Stöver	Geant	Spain
31	Khoudia Gueye	SnRER	Sénégal
32	Dewalt Wys	Xon Systems	South Africa
33	Jacqueline Signorini	IRD	France
34	Mamadou T. Agne	Université de Thies	Sénégal

35	Mouhamadou Kh. Diouf	Université de Thies	Sénégal
36	Tarkalo Miller	Liberian University	Liberian
37	Alain Aina	Wacren	Togo
38	Joshua Atah	NgREN	Nigeria
39	Souleymane Oumtanaga	INPHB	Côte d'Ivoire
40	Alex Corenthin	ESP/UCAD	Sénégal
41	Jules Degila	RER Benin	Bénin
42	Pamela Abbott	Brunel University	United Kingdom
43	Bjorn Pehrson	KTH	Sweden
44	Mamadou Mar	CFAO Technologies	Sénégal
45	Sahnoune Sammy	IRD	France
46	Nodumo Dhlamini	Association of African Universities	Ghana
47	Yousef Torman	ASREN	Jordan
48	Margareth Sfrerer	ESC	Ethiopia
49	Massamba Seck	UADB/Snrer	Sénégal
50	Abdoulaye Deme	LSAO/UGB	Sénégal
51	Chris Whalen	NIAID/NIH	USA
52	Sidy Soumare	Malidcer	Mali
53	Jean-Luc Chotte	IRD-SREC	France
54	Frédérique Reigney	IRD-SREC	France
55	Amelina Arnaud	AUF/TOGORER	Togo
56	Ly Ousmane	MaliREN	Mali
57	Demba Coulibaly	MaliREN	Mali
58	Baragé Moussa	Université de Niamey	Niger
59	Ibrahim ALIO SANDA	NigerREN	Niger
60	Bonny Khunga	Zamren	Zambia
61	Phil Matthews	Geant	United Kingdom
62	Michael Faborode	Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigeria	Nigeria
63	Chris Rohrer	Ubuntunet Alliance	Malawi
64	Edem Pedanou	Wascal-Coc	Burkina Faso
65	Dah Dieng	Université Gaston Berger St Louis	Sénégal
66	Donna Oti	CEI	usa
67	Pascal Hoba	Ubuntunet Alliance	Malawi
68	Pierre Claver B. Traore	Université de Bamako	Mali
69	Bakary Cisse	MaliRen	Mali
70	Abdoulaye Traore	MaliRen	Mali
71	Kone Tiemoman	Riter	Côte d'Ivoire
72	Thomas Djotio	University of Yaounde	Cameroun
73	Thomas Songu	Njala University	Sierra Leone
74	J. François Guezou	Renater	France

75	Emmanuel Barry	UEMOA	Burkina Faso
76	Traore Issa	Riter	Côte d'Ivoire
77	Emmanuel Togo	University of Ghana / Garnet	Ghana
78	Hannu Tenhunen	KTH	Sweden
79	Adewale Ajao	Obafemi Awolowo University	Nigeria
80	Gbenga Jegede	Obafemi Awolowo University	Nigeria
81	Muritala Ayoola	Obafemi Awolowo University	Nigeria
82	Marion Adebisi	Covenant University	Nigeria
83	Ijeoma Adaku Nwaukwu	University of Jos	Nigeria
84	Yves Emvudu	Ric	Cameroun
85	Charles Uwadia	EKO-Konnect	Nigeria
86	Roberto Barbera	UNICT	Italy
87	Marie Helene Mballo	IFACD / UADB	Sénégal
88	Etienne Sarr	Centre Régional AGRHYMET	Niger
89	Julius Fobil	University of Ghana	Ghana

3. National Workshop, Abuja, 10 november 2016

3.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

3.1.1 Acknowledgements

The TANDEM project wishes to thank WACREN and NgREN for hosting the third and latest National Workshop of the project.

3.1.2 Introductory remarks

This workshop was the third and last one of a series of three national workshops that were to be organised during the lifetime of the project. It was held on 10 November 2016.

Nigeria was chosen to hold the workshop in order to mobilize the stakeholders of its NREN to lobby more for securing NgREN's contribution to WACREN's financial participation needed for the AfricaConnect2 project.

It must be noted that the workshop was first scheduled for 6 October 2016, but had to be postponed due to the delayed payment of the project budget for Year 2. This delayed payment due to administrative issues was still pending when the workshop started. Therefore consortium partners had to pre-finance their participation and other logistics cost, as there was a risk to not being able to organize the workshop if postponed twice (end of year and packed agendas in Q1 of 2017).

IRD, WACREN, UbuntuNet Alliance, CIRAD, Brunel University and CLARA could attend the workshop despite the new schedule.

3.2. OBJECTIVES, FORMAT AND PROGRAMME

3.2.1. Event objective

The main objective of this third national workshop was to raise awareness among stakeholders of NgREN about the need to do the needful for the participation of NgREN in AfricaConnect2.

It was also planned to organise a one-day workshop with the consortium of Nigeria librarians, which can potentially mobilise end-users for participation in WACREN activities. This consortium also has the potential of lobbying for the release of funds for NgREN's participation in AfricaConnect2.

Due to the strong commitment of the librarians' community and the advancement of preparation of the workshop, it was decided to still hold one-day workshop with the consortium of Nigeria librarians on the planned date (9 October) despite the postponement of the main TANDEM workshop. This decision intended to usefully benefit from the

commitment of this community while maintaining its motivation and momentum even though the main TANDEM workshop had been rescheduled.

3.2.2. Event format

As was done for the other workshops, this one was organised in the form of presentations followed by discussions. Again, the workshop language was English, but French-speaking participants were encouraged to participate in the discussions in the language of their choice (English or French). As usual, bilingual participants volunteered to summarize contributions made in French.

3.2.3. Event programme

The event programme, executed as planned except one of the presentations from a Nigerian researcher, is reproduced below:

08:00 - 09:00	Registration
	SESSION 1 – Facilitator: NUC Executive Secretary - TBC
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome Remarks
09:15 - 10:00	Presentation of NgREN <i>Joshua Atah, NgREN</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Presentation of WACREN <i>Boubakar Barry, WACREN</i>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break and Group photograph
	SESSION 2 – Facilitator: Umar Garba Danbatta, NCC (TBC)
11:00 - 11:30	The TANDEM Project and related H2020 projects <i>Damien Alline, IRD</i>
11:30 - 12:00	Building a Regional Research and Education Network: Lessons from the UbuntuNet Alliance <i>Chris Rohrer, UbuntuNet Alliance</i>
12:00 - 12:30	Research and Education Networks - Experiences from Latin America <i>Carmen Gloria Labbe, CLARA</i>
12:30 - 13:00	Findings of TANDEM User Needs Survey <i>Pamela Abbott, Brunel University</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
	SESSION 3 – Facilitator: Joshua Atah, NgREN
14:00 - 14:30	Use Case and Service Portofolio (TANDEM D3.3) <i>Philippe Granier, CIRAD</i>
14:30- 15:00	Experience from the Sci-GaIA hackfest in Catania <i>Benjamin Aribisala, Lagos State University</i>
15:00- 15:30	Presentation from a researcher or community of practice in Nigeria <i>Ike Mowete, University of Lagos</i>
15:30- 16:00	The evolving role of the librarian in NREN development and improved research outputs <i>TBD</i>

16:00 - 16:30	AfricaConnect2 – Opportunities for the NgREN community <i>Boubakar Barry, WACREN</i>
16:30 - 16:45	Closing
16:45- 17:30	Refreshments and networking

3.3. EVENT PARTICIPATION, PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION

3.3.1. Attendance

The workshop was attended by the TANDEM consortium members, NREN Focal Points, PODWAG members and members of the NgREN community.

However, the number of members of the NgREN community who attended the workshop was quite small and disappointing, given the expectations from the project and based on the number of online registered participants.

Only 34 out of the 60 expected participants attended the workshop and the NgREN management explained that the low participation of its community is due to the fact that the workshop was postponed.

3.3.2. Event promotion and dissemination

The event was mostly promoted through the project’s and WACREN’s website to get participation of end-users in higher education and research institutions.

TANDEM brochures were distributed to the attendees and some sets handed over to some participants for distribution in their institutions.

3.4. WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS AND OUTCOMES

Although participation from the local NgREN community was low, the workshop gave the opportunity to address issues related to NgREN’s engagement with its community. There was strong criticism from the local participants present about NgREN management not engaging enough with the community.

It was also indicated that if NgREN fails to secure its contribution to the AfricaConnect2 funding, other options would be considered. These include: i) working directly with the consortium of librarians that has indicated that that it may be able to access funds from the Nigerian Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TeTFund); and ii) working directly with “regional” clusters that will manage to engage with their members and secure funds for participation of Nigerian higher education and research institutions.

It should also be noted that representatives of telecommunications operators attended the workshop as well as joint community and PODWAG workshop, held the next day (11 November). They stated that they understand more and more what NRENs are about and expressed again their readiness to partner with WACREN and its members for the provision

of connectivity at an affordable price. This discussion with telecommunications operators pinpointed the advantage of the Podwag model and the participants agreed on the interest of reproducing it at national level, especially in Nigeria where the organisation is complex due to regional clusters. If it were to happen, a Podwag model at national level would definitely be one of the most significant positive effects of the Tandem project.

ANNEX 3

The list of participants (34 in total) is appended as Annex 3.

	Name	Affiliation	Country
1	Gameti Ama Dzifa	Ministère Enseignement Recherche (Podwag)	Togo
2	Bassole Didier	FasoREN (Focal Point)	Burkina Faso
3	Ali Hamadou	NigenREN (Focal Point)	Niger
4	Ibourahima Keita	MaliREN (Focal Point)	Mali
5	Modibo Sangaré	MRTC/FMOS/USTTB	Mali
6	Maïssa Mbaye	SnREN (Focal Point)	Sénégal
7	Benjamin Aribisala	Lagos State University	Lagos
8	Omo Oaiya	Wacren	Sénégal
9	Boubakar Barry	Wacren	Sénégal
10	Venant Palanga	TogoRER / Wacren	Togo
11	Carmen Labbé	Redclara	Chili
12	Philippe Granier	Cirad	France
13	Owen Lyoha	Eko Konnect	Nigeria
14	Laide Olanlokun	NgREN / NUC (Focal Point)	Nigeria
15	Ohnwabbi Yowok	NgREN	Nigeria
16	Alex T. Yvah	NgREN	Nigeria
17	Leo S. Peter	NgREN	Nigeria
18	Ogundele Feml	NgREN	Nigeria
19	Damien Alline	Ird	France
20	Chris Rohrer	UbuntuNet Alliance	Malawi
21	Gimba Mohammed	MainOne	Nigeria
22	Sani Mohammed	MainOne	Nigeria
23	Abdulkarim Suleiman	NUC	Nigeria
24	Belinda Agbono	Nabado Network	Nigeria
25	Béatrice Johnson	Demaduco Systems	Nigeria
26	Yaharami F. Harami	Fed. Poly. Nasarawa	Nigeria
27	Pamela Abbott	Brunel University, London	United Kingdom
28	Rilwana Abdulsaloui	Federal University	Nigeria
29	James P. Nyaam	University of Abuja	Nigeria

30	Akimboo A. A.	A.A.A. Infotek	Nigeria
31	Tega Agofure	Globalcom Limited	Nigeria
32	Indraneel CHATTERJEE	Glo One (Podwag)	Nigeria
33	Mcem Momah	Nitda	Nigeria
34	Edward James	NUC/NgREN	Nigeria

ANNEX 4

Focal Point Members

	Country	Surname	First Name	Email	Phone
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10	SENEGAL	Dr MAÏSSA	Mbaye	maissa.mbaye@ugb.edu.sn	+221 77 542 61 79
11	TOGO	Dr MAO	Barerem-Melgueba	francoismao@gmail.com	+228 92703488