WACREN INITIATIVE:
A regional network for sharing knowledge in West and Central Africa

Spring 2012 Internet2 Member Meeting
Emerging NREN
Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Virginia, USA
April 22-25, 2012
Facts about WACREN

- 22 countries:
  - 2 REC = ECOWAS (15)/ CEMAC (7)
  - Surface Area: 3.6 millions sq mi
  - Population: 300 millions
  - 13 Member States are Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
  - Average number of students in HE: 905 per 100,000 inhabitants (5700 in USA)
  - Limited bandwidth and its high cost
  - Lowest ICT Development Index (IDI)
WACREN's Genesis

• Incubated in AfNOG and AAU workshop on R & E Networks (Nairobi, April 2006);
• Regional workshop on RREN (Accra, Nov 2006);
• AfREN workshop (Rabat, Nov 2007);
• Task force to set up WACREN after regional consultative meeting in Open Access (Accra, Nov 2009)
• Registration as not for profit association in August 2010
• First Board of 9 members installed in March 2011
WACREN Mission & Objectives

Mission: Build and operate a world-class network infrastructure for academic and research collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Objectives:

- Promotion and development of interconnection among NRENs in the region;
- Fostering collaboration between research and education institutions in the region and with their peers at continental and international levels.
NREN'S in WACREN

• **Established NREN:**
  - GARNET - Ghana : August 2010;
  - SnRER - Senegal : March 2011;
  - MaliREN - Mali : August 2011;
  - RITER - Côte d’Ivoire : November 2011;
  - NigerREN - Niger : December 2011;
  - GabonREN - Gabon : February 2012

• **Established NREN underdevelopment:**
  - NgREN - Nigeria : progress with some regional clusters in operation (Lagos, Sokoto)
  - RIC - Cameroun

• **Ongoing initiatives:**
  - Bénin, Burkina, Togo, etc
Challenges for NREN'S in WACREN

• Low coverage in Campus Networks;
• Poor national Telcom and power infrastructures
• High cost of Bandwidth and ICT services
• Lack of institutional structure and human capacity for ICT;
• Unsustanaible funding
• Conservative Regulatory framework
WACREN’s Main fields for action

- Administrative structure, Governance & Financing
- Connectivity/Infrastructures & Regulatory issues including interconnection
- Implementation strategy & Partnerships
- Capacity building
- Content/Applications
More about WACREN....

Visit our website : www.wacren.net
Thank You

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