

Connecting the Middle East

Background



The Middle East possesses the richest and most diverse culture. The challenge is: how to promote this rich culture as much as other cultures are.



The situation today

- Poor internet penetration on the average.
- Isolation of networks.
- Poor or no value contents.

What needs to be done

- Digitalized contents.
- Infrastructure – connected Middle East/Middle East backbone.
- Confidence (Security).
- Applying governance.
- Research and Development.
- Adding the commercial value.

The Benefits



- New business opportunities.
- Preservation of our great values.
- Raise the computer literacy level among the people of the Middle East.
- Increase the confidence in online contents.



What the MENOG can add?



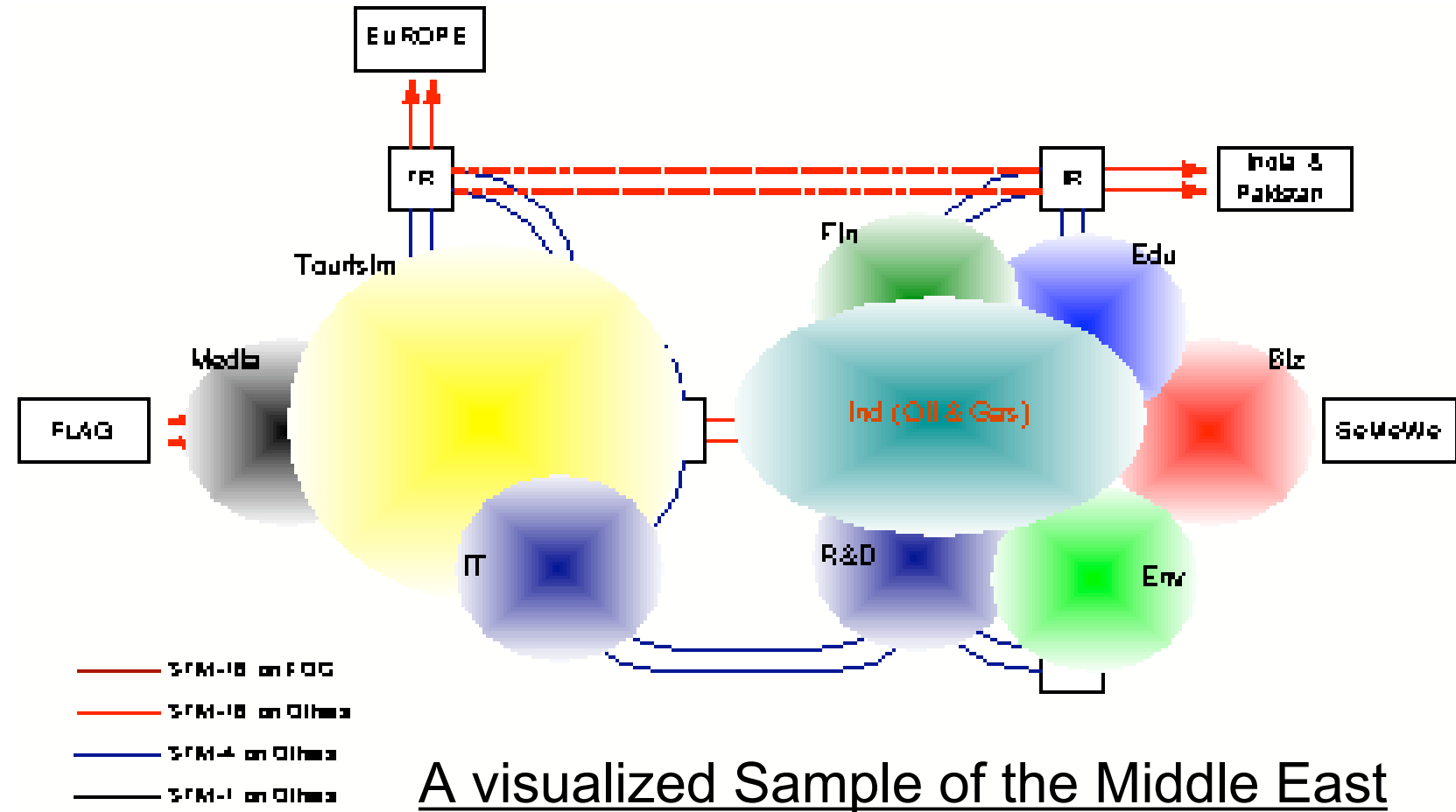
- Infrastructure development initiatives:
 - Internet Peering.
 - IP-IP network interconnections (IP/MPLS).
 - Ultimately evolve into a Middle East wide IP/Internet Backbone.

GOAL

Totally Connected Middle East



What the MENOG can add?



A visualized Sample of the Middle East IP/Internet Backbone



What the MENOG can add?



- What to expect in a Middle East IP/Internet Backbone:
 - High-reliability.
 - Total connectivity.
 - Very high bandwidth.
 - Leverage the competency of each part of the region.
 - Multiple tapping points to major regions.
 - All are owners and operators.



What the MENOG can add?



- Security:
 - Raising the awareness of privacy and confidentiality.
 - Establishment of CERT centers for dealing with security incidents.

GOAL

Confidence



What the MENOG can add?



- Research and Development:
 - Arabic Domain Names (ADN/IDN).
 - Network simulation and testing.
 - Explore IPv6.
 - Monitor and review WiMAX progress.
 - Internet2 (REN: Research & Development Network).

GOAL

New and Innovative Products



Promises and Facts

- GCC Internet Peering has already started, currently adopted by the ARISPA, and should expect some results soon, still need the inclusion of other parts of the region.
- CERT is now will established in Qatar, more is expected as the gcc-CERT is forming.
- R&D still lagging, with just the ADN initiative being pursued by the Arab League.
- IPv6 test plans developed between Etisalat and Qtel need review.
- ADN need to be taken more seriously, the way it is progressing carries no promises.

Conclusion



- MENOLOG is going to be a great forum for Network Operators to discuss common projects.
- Three major objectives are sought:
 - Connected Middle East.
 - Build confidence.
 - and drive innovation.

