Connecting the Middle East
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.
What the MENOG can add?

• Research and Development:
  – Arabic Domain Names (ADN/IDN).
  – Network simulation and testing.
  – 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

• MENOG 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.