



Contribution ID: 156

Type: **Talk**

## **The Demand for High Performance Computing in Kenya: Special Interest Groups as vehicles for promoting research collaboration**

*Tuesday, 5 December 2017 09:00 (45 minutes)*

Kenya Education Network (KENET) is the National Research and Education of Kenya responsible for building and operating the research infrastructures for the academic community in Kenya.

The research infrastructures include a high speed national network with low-congestion international links to global research & education networks including TENET / SANREN in South Africa.

This talk will describe how KENET has created Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in order to discover and promote research collaboration in three main priority areas, namely, engineering, computational modelling and materials science (CMMS), and educational technology. The talk shall describe the innovative methods used to discover research champions in different areas and the joint activities of one of the Special SIG on CMMS in the period 2016-2017.

Kenya plans to build the capacity of Kenyan researchers in the use of HPC for researchers with the support of CHPC and other grid infrastructures operators such as the European Grid Infrastructure (EGI). The talk shall describe how KENET has setup a low-cost Certification Authority (CA) that has been accredited by EUGRIDPMA. The certificates issued by the CA would allow Kenyan researchers to access EGI to supplement their computing needs. The talk concludes that any African NREN can facilitate access to HPC and Grid Computing facilities in any part of the world and therefore to promote research collaboration and productivity.

### **HPC content**

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**Primary author:** Prof. KASHORDA, Meoli (KENET)

**Presenter:** Prof. KASHORDA, Meoli (KENET)

**Session Classification:** Plenary

**Track Classification:** SA NREN