



# UbuntuNet Alliance

*in association with*

**Research and Education Network for Uganda**

*announce*

# UbuntuNet-Connect 2009



---

This is the **second** announcement and call for papers for the **2009 annual conference of the UbuntuNet Alliance, UbuntuNet-Connect 2009** which will be **held in Kampala, Uganda from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2009**. This year's conference will be hosted by the **Research and Education Network for Uganda, RENU**.

This annual conference brings together practitioners and stakeholders to address current challenges, share lessons, and plan for the continuing growth of research and education networks in Africa. UbuntuNet-Connect 2009 will in addition provide opportunities for special interest groups (such as the one on *Grid Computing*) to share their experiences and plans in the light of improving connectivity across the continent

**Theme:** Opening New Frontiers for Research and Education Networking in Africa

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2009

**Venue:** Hotel Africa, Kampala, Uganda

**Organizers:** Research and Education Network for Uganda

## **1. Introduction**

UbuntuNet-Connect 2009 comes during the year when the first undersea fibre cable - SEACOM - has landed on the Indian Ocean Coast of Africa and is operational. It will open up new frontiers for research and education networking in the region, with the expected mix of opportunities and challenges that comes with any new frontier. This gives birth to the proposed theme of the conference: *Opening New Frontiers for Research and Education Networking in Africa*.

## **2. Call for Abstracts and Papers**

We are calling for abstracts and papers under the following sub-themes, the focus in each case being an exploration of current opportunities and challenges, and creative methods that have been used or are proposed to seize opportunities and address challenges. (Papers that dwell on the routine will not be accepted - we are looking for creativity, innovation, and thinking outside the box). Sub-themes include:

- i. Network deployment and operations (Regional and National).
- ii. How NRENs are addressing policy and regulatory challenges.
- iii. Capacity building.
- iv. Content networks.

### **2.1 Submission of Papers**

Full papers are to be submitted in response to this call. All papers will be reviewed by the Program Committee. They will be judged with respect to their quality, originality, and relevance. Accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings, conditional upon the author's advance registration.

### ***Paper Submission Instructions***

1. Papers should have the following file format for easy identification: 'Surname\_Initial', where the Surname is that of the first author.
2. Once you have completed the paper you want to submit you will need to use Adobe Acrobat to convert your paper into a PDF file: we are using an online conference paper management system called EasyChair ([www.easychair.org](http://www.easychair.org)) and it will only accept papers in PDF format.

3. If you are the corresponding author, you should have received an email from EasyChair asking you to create an account to access your paper submission for the Uconnect2009 conference. Follow the instructions in the email.
4. If you are making a paper submission and you do not have an EasyChair account for Uconnect2009, send an e-mail to [uconnect2009@renu.ac.ug](mailto:uconnect2009@renu.ac.ug) with subject line: UConnect2009 Conference Paper Submission Instructions.
5. Once your paper is lodged the review process will commence and you can track the progress of your paper through the EasyChair system. We will send you a copyright form to sign to facilitate publication of your paper.

Contact the Conference Secretary Ali Ndiwalana on [ally@renu.ac.ug](mailto:ally@renu.ac.ug) or [Uconnect2009@renu.ac.ug](mailto:Uconnect2009@renu.ac.ug) for further assistance.

## **2.2 Submission of Abstracts**

Abstracts are being solicited to cover aspects of the conference theme. Abstracts should propose presentations under: *special interest groups, practical workshops and demonstrations, or special topic (panel) sessions*.

Submit your proposal, not exceeding one page (A4), for a special interest group, practical workshop and demonstration, or special topic (panel) session to the Conference Secretary Ali Ndiwalana on [ally@renu.ac.ug](mailto:ally@renu.ac.ug) or [Uconnect2009@renu.ac.ug](mailto:Uconnect2009@renu.ac.ug).

## **3. The Program**

The technical program will be developed from both submitted and solicited papers and abstracts. There are a limited number of speaking spots available on the conference program. Major oral presentations will be 22–25 minutes in length followed by a 5–8-minute discussion period. Special interest groups, Practical Workshops and Special Topic Sessions can be either a half-day or one session (about an hour).

## **4. Important Dates**

Issuance of formal call for papers: **July 31, 2009**

Special Interest Group, Workshop and Panel Proposals Due: **September 7, 2009**

Conference Paper Submissions Due: **September 15, 2009**

Paper Acceptance Notification: **October 7, 2009**

Authors of accepted papers contacted for improvement: **October 22, 2009**

Final date for receipt of papers for inclusion in programme: **November 1, 2009**

Camera-ready Manuscript Due: **November 5, 2009**

## **5. Conference Registration and Costs**

A registration form for *Uconnect2009* is on the RENU website - to be completed by intending participants *immediately* to speed up the planning process. Formal registration and confirmation of participation are completed upon payment of the conference registration fee.

The registration fee covering joint social events, lunches, teas, and documentation is US\$100. The conference hotel bed and breakfast rate has been negotiated to \$90 per day.

**Further details** can be found on the conference homepage:

<http://renu.ac.ug/uconnect2009>

You can e-mail [uconnect2009@renu.ac.ug](mailto:uconnect2009@renu.ac.ug) if the web links are not satisfactory.

The homepage will be updated as any new information becomes available.

## **6. The Other Notes**

The Research and Education Network of Uganda, RENU, has offered to host the two day conference from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November in Kampala, Uganda. The conference will be preceded by specialized workshop(s) on areas of current capacity needs for the member NRENS.

## **7. Appreciation**

We put on the record our appreciation for the kind support of the International Development Research Centre (Canada), through which there will be a limited number of conference fellowships for some paper presenters as well as targeted participants from African universities and NRENS. The fellowships will cover air tickets, accommodation (bed and breakfast basis) and registration. Sponsored delegates will have to meet all other costs related to their participation.

***We look forward to receiving you: Welcome to the Pearl of Africa!***