

The Malawi Research and Education Network (MAREN)

Presentation for the 4th International Conference on Open Access

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Outline

- Background
- Projects
- Collaborations
- Way forward
- Conclusion

Aim of MAREN

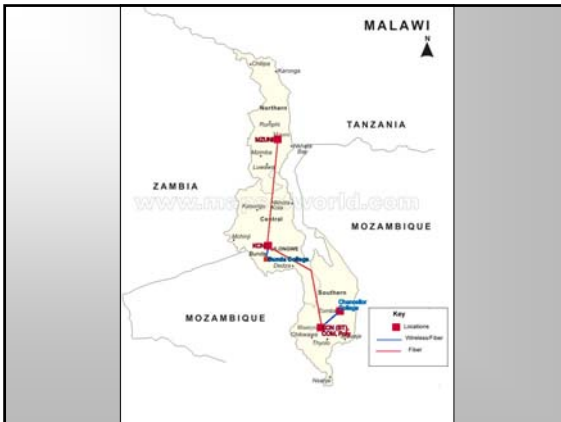
MAREN
 (Malawi Research and Education Network)

Aim:

To offer a single focus for pursuing excellent Internet connectivity for the Tertiary Education and Research Sectors in Malawi.

Background

- Under Malawi Library and Information Consortium (MALICO)
- Has 2 founding members:
 1. University of Malawi (UNIMA) – which comprises 5 constituent colleges: Bunda, COM, KCN, Chancellor College and the Polytechnic, all connected to the Internet via VSAT
 2. Mzuzu University (MZUND)
- Department of Research and Specialist Services of the Ministry of Agriculture has joined.
- Other institutions are considering joining, e.g. NACIT (cont'd...)



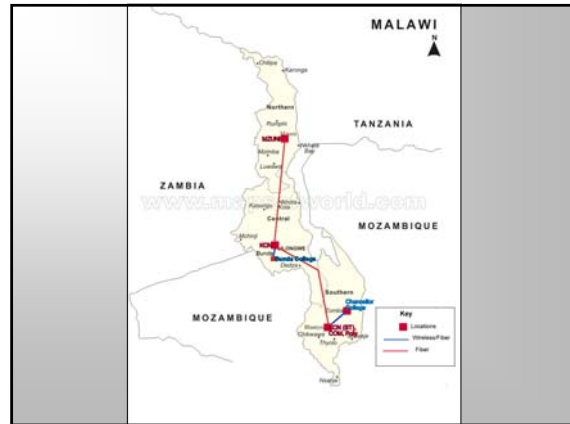
Projects

1. Fiber Interconnection
2. Malawi Internet Exchange Point (MIX)
3. Hosting of Resources
4. International Gateway Licence
5. Connecting across borders
6. Legitimizing MAREN

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Network for Enhanced Educational Connectivity for the Tertiary Education and Research Sectors in Malawi

Projects

Project Title	Mile Stone	Date Completed	Comment
fiber Interconnection	fiber Interconnection for COM, Poly and KCN Blantyre campus	Feb, 2006	Done
	Acquisition of 2 dark fiber strands from ESCOM	Feb, 2006	Done
	Lighting up dark fiber	April, 2007	Acquisition of funds in progress
	Connecting Chancellor College (Zomba)	April, 2007	Negotiations with wireless operators in progress
	Connecting Bunda College	April, 2007	Negotiations with wireless operators in progress
	Connecting MZUNI	2008	Awaiting ESCOM project



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Projects

Malawi Internet Exchange Point	Design and Implementation of IXP	June, 2006	Done
	IXP operational	February, 2007	Awaiting ISPs to connect
Hosting of Resources	MIT Open Courseware hosting	October, 2006	Done
International Gateway License	Acquisition of international gateway license	June, 2007	Negotiations with MACRA in progress
Connecting Beyond Borders	Connection to EASSy	December, 2008	Awaiting EASSy project

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Projects

Establishing MAREN as an institutional and operational framework	Joint communiqué	Aug, 2007	Submitted a funding proposal to FRENIA-TENET
	MOU		
	Registration as a legal entity		
	Operational Secretariat		

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Collaborations

- Local Collaborations
 - ESCOM, the electricity company
 - MTL, a telecommunications company
 - MALICO, the Library Consortium
 - MACRA, the regulator
 - Government
- Regional Collaborations
 - UbuntuNet Alliance
- Global Collaborations
 - KTH
 - Other RENs through UbuntuNet

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Way Forward

- In line with the road map drawn at the Conference for Research and Education Networks held in Tunis in November 2005, MAREN has some work to do.
 1. MAREN to assume legal status and have a secretariat
 2. Sensitization of end users about MAREN and network management, so that the bandwidth and other resources can be properly utilized once available.

Conclusion

- MAREN has achieved tremendous progress since its inception
- Given the premise of the past, the future looks bright!

Thank You !