

2017

REGIONAL COOPERATION PEACE & DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES & LESSONS FOR MENA

ERF 23rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 18-20, 2017 | Amman, Jordan

Conference Program

ECONOMIC
RESEARCH
FORUM



منتدى
البحوث
الاقتصادية

ABOUT ERF

Our Mission

The Economic Research Forum (ERF) is a regional network dedicated to promoting high quality economic research to contribute to sustainable development in the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey.

Our Objectives

Established in 1993, ERF's core objectives are to build strong research capacity in the ERF region, to lead and support the production of independent, high quality economic research, and to disseminate research output to a wide and diverse audience.

Our Activities

To achieve these objectives, ERF carries out a portfolio of activities. These include mobilizing funds for well conceived proposals; managing carefully selected regional research initiatives, collecting and sharing micro data and providing training and mentoring programs to junior researchers. It also includes organizing seminars and conferences based on research outcomes; and publishing research output through multiple channels including working papers, books, policy briefs and perspectives, Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ) and a newsletter – Forum.

Our Network

The ERF network comprises a distinguished Board of Trustees (BOT), accomplished researchers from the region and highly dedicated head-office staff. A not-for-profit organization, the Forum is supported by multiple donors, both regional and international.

Contact Information

Address: 21 Al-Sad Al-Aaly St. Dokki, Giza, Egypt
Telephone: 00 202 333 18 600 - 603 **Fax:** 00 202 333 18 604
Email: erf@erf.org.eg **Website:** <http://www.erf.org.eg>

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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ERF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Economic Research Forum's (ERF) Annual Conference has become the premiere regional event for economists of the Middle East, where new ideas are born, nourished and promoted; where the community of researchers meet and where excellence is celebrated. This year's conference will be held in Amman, Jordan, March 18-20, 2017. The main theme of the plenary sessions is "Regional Cooperation, Peace and Development: Issues and Lessons for MENA."

Besides the plenary sessions, which will feature world renowned economists, social scientists and policy makers, there will be six to seven parallel sessions daily. Parallel sessions will include the presentation of more than 50 papers under the themes of Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, International Economics, Finance, Labor and Human Development, and Institutional Economics. In addition, there will be two special plenary sessions, the first of which will showcase the work done by ERF on the research project "The Economics of Life Course Transitions in the Middle East and North Africa". The second session will feature the launch of two new ERF books, "Understanding and Avoiding The Oil Curse in Resource Rich Arab Economies," and "The Middle East Economies in Times of Transition". As always, the closing session will be devoted to celebrating the six winners of what has become a regional mark of excellence: The Best Paper Awards.

Conference Theme

Despite the strong interdependencies between the countries of the region in terms of migrant labor and remittances, as well as capital flows, there are virtually no strategic region-wide or sub-regional initiatives for promoting economic cooperation between them. Regional public goods, such as supra-national economic policy institutions, regional infrastructure and regional peace, have been a huge backbone for development in other developing regions. Unfortunately, political differences and narrow-minded nationalism have often complicated such efforts in MENA, which, to mention two examples, perhaps explain the dysfunction of the Maghreb Economic Grouping and the conflicts over rights and use of transnational watercourses.

Notwithstanding the fact that virtually the entire scholarship community tends to subscribe to the views regarding the importance of regional cooperation and regional public goods, including regional peace, to economic development at the country level within a region; these issues stand to be debated. For example, some might question the validity of the claim that reciprocal regional trade liberalization might be superior to unconditional unilateral trade liberalization. Also, assuming that regional cooperation is important for economic development from a country-specific perspective, there remains the question of which approach is best suited for promoting and sustaining meaningful economic integration within and between regions. Moreover, the relationship between region-wide conflicts as a regional 'public bad' and regional economic cooperation needs to be better understood and articulated to the specific regional context in question.

The three plenaries would, therefore, address three major themes. First, why might regional cooperation, and especially regional economic blocks, be good for development? Second, how best can such regional initiatives and the associated regional public goods be built? Third, what are the reasons behind the lackluster performance of economic cooperation and the lack of adequate regional public goods, most notably, regional peace, in MENA, and what is the ensuing development cost to the region?

Plenary Session 1: Why are Regional Economic Blocks and Regional Public Goods Important for Development?

As discussed above, there is a wide consensus among scholars and practitioners alike regarding the importance of regional economic blocks in promoting deeper economic integration within and between regions. They expand economic space of otherwise fragmented and relatively small economies and hence promote investment, economic interdependence and growth within regions, which in turn mitigates proneness to conflicts and promotes regional peace. However, the presumed dominant welfare and development benefits of regionalism hinge on second best arguments that might be specific to regional and global conditions; hence, the case for regional approaches to public development policy needs to be argued and discussed. There is also an active debate regarding whether success and sustainability of regional blocks hinge on primarily targeting economic and political policy coordination, so that deeper economic integration becomes feasible; or, whether building Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and regional infrastructure projects should come first. The latter would promote the required political commitment for developing broad-based regional policy coordination, which would then allow deeper economic integration to take root and become sustainable. The speakers in this plenary will address the cluster of issues associated with why regional economic cooperation and re-

gional public goods are important from a country-specific development perspective. Among other relevant issues, the speakers will ask questions such as: what is the economic and political concept of a 'region' and what do we mean by 'regionalism'? from a country-specific development perspective, what are the relative advantages and drawbacks of relying on regional objectives? how might regional economic blocks promote reciprocal trade, policy harmonization, regional infrastructure and conflict resolution? how successful have broad regional coordination approaches been in promoting deeper trade and overall economic integration? or, instead, how has the latter spearheaded broader and more robust regional coordination?

Plenary Session 2: How Has Regional Cooperation Evolved in Practice?

This question should cover all forms of regional economic cooperation and should address a myriad of issues related to the scope, sequencing and institutional aspects of regional economic cooperation. However, it is useful to take the case of RTAs as an intensive form of regional cooperation to assess different experiences and institutional designs of regional economic initiatives across the world. RTAs have been the centerpiece of regional cooperation initiatives, with many developing countries pursuing them for more than five decades now. However, RTAs have lost some of their appeal with the advent of global multilateral trade initiatives -even though the pendulum might be swinging their way now that the global economic crisis and the ensuing slowing demand from major global markets have started to impact growth in the developing world. With the Doha Round of multilateral trade talks stalled, RTAs might offer an alternative approach to increase trade, spur stronger economic growth and lower unemployment rates in participating countries. However, whether or not RTAs could deliver these goals remains to be seen and several issues need to be considered.

In particular, the speakers would need to address several questions in this context, including: what are the misgivings and qualifications associated with the concepts and experiences of RTAs? what are the similarities and contrasts between major RTAs in the world (EU, NAFTA, ASEAN, COMESA, MERCOSUR, MAGREB, GCC...etc.) in terms of objectives, institutional design features, sequencing, political commitments,...etc.,? how realistically could RTAs ameliorate global economic slowdown and promote regional growth?; and, what role have RTAs had in preventing conflicts and promoting regional peace?

Plenary Session 3: Regional Cooperation in MENA: A Story of High Hopes, Stagnation and Setbacks

Unfortunately, the MENA region experience with regional cooperation presents a classic case of perhaps overambitious initiatives that eventually gave way to stagnation and, more recently, to major setbacks due to region-wide security problems. It is important to appreciate the role of design features that historically affected the success of the region's RTAs, most notably those associated with promoting regional integration under essentially closed national economies during most of the post-colonial era. However, it could be argued that political differences among the region's countries and the recent eruptions of conflicts that engulfed the entire region have become the main culprit militating against meaningful region-wide economic cooperation. Therefore, the overarching question concerning MENA should be: how might the region find an approach to resolving its looming conflicts that would also embed a reciprocal-symbiotic relationship between regional peace and supranational economic gains? The received scholarly literature, as well as country and regional experiences, suggest that such feedback effects do exist between conflicts as a regional 'public bad' and development failure at the regional level. On one hand, weak regional economic cooperation lowers the opportunity cost of peace for individual countries in a region; while conflicts, once they happen, make economic cooperation harder, if not impossible, to achieve.

Against this backdrop, the speakers in this session will be addressing a host of issues, such as: Is the MENA region different in terms of its regional cooperation experiences and why?; what has been the cost of failures to promote stronger regional cooperation, not only in terms of economic development but also in terms of the proneness to conflicts and insecurity?; what lessons could be learned from other regional experiences, especially with regard to the challenge of building a self-reinforcing approach to resolving conflicts and promoting regional cooperation?

GENERAL INFORMATION

Conference Venue

- Intercontinental Amman | Islamic College Street | Amman 11180 | Jordan | Tel: +(962) 646 41 361

Travel Arrangements

- In case of any delay in your departure, please send a message or call +2 0100 884 4995 to re-book your hotel reservation and arrange for your airport pickup.
- Upon your arrival in Amman, "Meet and Assist" services will be provided by a representative from our travel agency, "**Travel Master.**" The representative will be holding an ERF sign. In case you miss your airport pickup, please contact **Ms. Hadeel Hasan +962 79 5294813**
- Transportation from the airport to the hotel will be provided to all participants (about 45 minute-trip).
- Concerning departure, please check out and be ready three hours before your flight's departure time. A "**Travel Master**" representative will meet you at the hotel lobby.
- Authors who need to sign their contracts and/or collect their ticket reimbursement will need to kindly go to the Dana secretariat room (2nd Floor).

Hotel Accommodation

- Participants will be residing at: Intercontinental Amman | Islamic College Street | Amman 11180 | Jordan | Tel: +(962) 646 41 361
- A block of rooms has been reserved at this hotel for all participants attending the conference.
- To speed up the check-in process, please advise the check-in clerk that you are with the **Economic Research Forum (ERF) Group**.
- Kindly note that ERF does not cover expenses related to laundry, phone calls (local and international), room service, use of the mini-bar, and alcoholic beverages.
- Free internet is available for all in-house guests.

Meals

- Group lunches will be served at Intercontinental Amman (**The Atrium restaurant**) for participants from March 18th–20th and are covered by ERF.
- For participants arriving on March 16 and/or departing on March 22, please have your meals at **The Atrium restaurant**.
- The Welcome Dinner will take place on March 18th at 8:00 pm at the "**Bourj Al Hamam**", Intercontinental Amman Hotel.
- You are invited to attend a Gala dinner on March 19th at 8:00 pm at the "**Kan Zaman**". Buses will be ready at the Intercontinental Amman Hotel gates at 7:30 pm.

Kindly note that

- All conference papers and the agenda are now available online at www.erf.org.eg.

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

17 March

PARALLEL SESSIONS

09:00 – 13:00

ERF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)

Gerasa Meeting Room - 2nd Floor

09:00 – 17:30

WORKSHOP ON VULNERABILITY IN THE MENA REGION: FORTHCOMING PROJECTS
UNDER THE LABOR MARKET AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THEME (BY INVITATION ONLY)

Ayla Meeting Room - 2nd Floor

12:30 – 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 15:00

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)

Gerasa Meeting Room - 2nd Floor

16:00 – 19:30

THEMATIC LEADERS MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)

Nebo Meeting Room - 2nd Floor

DAY ONE

8:00 – 9:00 REGISTRATION | Al Riwaq Foyer

9:00 – 11:30 OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION 1: WHY ARE REGIONAL ECONOMIC BLOCKS AND REGIONAL PUBLIC GOODS IMPORTANT FOR DEVELOPMENT? | Al Riwaq Ballroom (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Abdlatif Al-Hamad* (Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and ERF)
Welcome Remarks: *Ibrahim Elbadawi* (Economic Research Forum)
Opening Remarks: *Ibrahim Saif* (Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan and ERF)
Speakers: *Amre Moussa* (Former Secretary General of League of Arab States and Former Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Egypt)
Jaime De Melo (FERDI and University of Geneva)
Louis Goodman (American University in Washington)

11:30 – 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 – 13:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Searching for Solutions to Institutional Problems in Turkey Ayla (2 nd Floor) Chairperson: <i>Ishac Diwan</i> Speakers: <i>Ali T. Akarca</i> Economic voting under single-party and coalition governments <i>Bedri Kamil Onur Tas</i> Collusion detection in public procurement with limited information Discussant: <i>Gamal Ibrahim</i>	FINANCE Financial Markets Zara (2 nd Floor) Chairperson: <i>Jamal Zarrouk</i> Speakers: <i>Ghada Tayem</i> To bank or not to bank: The determination of cash holdings & credit lines <i>Nader Naifar, Syed Jawad Hussain Shahzad and Shawkat Hammoudeh</i> The impact of major oil, financial and uncertainty factors on sovereign CDS spreads Discussant: <i>Walid Mensi</i>	MACROECONOMICS Energy Prices, Financial Structures, and Economic Performance Badiya (Ground Floor) Chairperson: <i>Ali Al Sadek</i> Speakers: <i>Uchechukwu Jarrett, Kamiar Mohaddes and Hamid Mohtadi</i> Oil price volatility, financial institutions and economic growth <i>Salim Araji, Vladimir Hlasny, and Vito Intini</i> Targeting debt in Lebanon: A structural macro-econometric model Discussant: <i>Magda Kandil</i>
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13:30 – 15:00 LUNCH

15:00 – 16:30 SPECIAL EVENT: THE ECONOMICS OF LIFE COURSE TRANSITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | Al Riwaq Ballroom (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Ragui Assaad* (University of Minnesota and ERF)
Speakers: *Caroline Krafft* (St. Catherine University)
Irene Selwaness (Cairo University and ERF)
Hanan Nazier (Cairo University and ERF)
Discussant: *Kathryn Yount* (Emory University)

16:30 – 17:00 COFFEE BREAK

17:00 – 19:00 RESEARCH FELLOWS MEETING (CLOSED MEETING) | Ayla (2nd Floor)

20:00 WELCOME DINNER | BOURJ AL HAMAM RESTAURANT (INTERCONTINENTAL JORDAN HOTEL)

<p>INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS Trade and Market Power</p> <p>Gerasa (2nd Floor)</p>	<p>LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Labor Mobility & Wages</p> <p>Nebo (2nd Floor)</p>	<p>LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Human Capital Investments & Wages</p> <p>Pella (2nd Floor)</p>	<p>MICROECONOMICS Firm productivity and political instability</p> <p>Pre-function room (Ground Floor)</p>
<p>Chairperson: <i>Mongi Boughzala</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Mohamed Chemingui and Mehmet Eris</i></p> <p>Trade integration and business cycle synchronization</p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Ilham Haouas</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Nelly El-Mallakh and Jackline Wahba</i></p> <p>Return migrants and the wage premium</p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Ragui Assaad</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Jenny Liu, Sepideh Modrek & Maia Sieverding</i></p> <p>The effects of political unrest on youth human capital accumulation in Egypt</p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Touhami Abdelkhalek</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Samer Matta</i></p> <p>The microeconomic impact of political instability</p>
<p><i>Inma Martínez-Zarzoso, Hendrik W. Kruse and Leila Baghdadi</i></p> <p>Standards and market power: Evidence from Tunisia</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Chahir Zaki</i></p>	<p><i>Belal Fallah</i></p> <p>The economic response of rural areas to local supply shock</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Radwan Shaban</i></p>	<p><i>Aysit Tansel</i></p> <p>Returns to education in Turkey: IV estimates from a developing country</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Murat Kirdar</i></p>	<p><i>Mohamed Chaffai and Patrick Plane</i></p> <p>Firm productivity and export status in the Egyptian environment</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Nancy Benjamin</i></p>

DAY TWO

9:00 – 11:00 **PLENARY SESSION 2: HOW REGIONAL COOPERATION EVOLVED IN PRACTICE?** | Al Riwaq Ballroom
(Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Samir Makdisi* (American University of Beirut and ERF)
Speakers: *Andre Sapir* (Solvay Brussels School of Economics & Management)
Jan Willem Gunning (Free University, Amsterdam)
Abdalla Hamdok (UNECA)

11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 – **ERF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)**

11:30 – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS
Cross Country Political Economy
Ayla (2nd Floor)

Chairperson: *Abla Abdel-Latif*

Speakers:
Amr Hosny

Political stability, firm characteristics and performance

Reham Rizk and Ricardo Nogales

Revisiting the middle class myth

Discussant:
Adeel Malik

FINANCE
Oil and Finance
Zara (2nd Floor)

Chairperson: *Simon Neaime*

Speakers:
Walid Mensi, Shawkat Hammoudeh, Syed Jawad Shahzad & Rami Zeitun

Oil and foreign exchange market tail dependence and portfolio implications for MENA

Khalid M. Kisswani & Mohammad I. Elian

Do oil prices affect Kuwait sectoral stock prices

Discussant:
Mine Cinar

MACROECONOMICS
Financial Repercussions of the Arab Spring
Badiya (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Kamiar Mohaddes*

Speakers:
Hany Abdel-Latif & Bazoumana Ouattara

FDI response to political shocks: What can the Arab Spring tell us?

Jamal Bouoilyour, Refk Selmi and Amal Miftah

Relationship between remittances and macroeconomic variables in an unstable context

Discussant:
Diaa Noureldin

13:00 – 14:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:30 – 16:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS
Financial Sector Institutions & Performance
Ayla (2nd Floor)

Chairperson: *Mustapha Nabli*

Speakers:
Houcem Smaoui and Mohsin Khawaja

The determinants of sukuk market development

Magda Kandil and Minko Markovski

The impact of ownership on corporate performance

Discussant:
Ida Mirzaie

FINANCE
Banking
Zara (2nd Floor)

Chairperson: *Mahmoud El-Jafari*

Speakers:
Mohamed Chaffai

Technology gap and managerial efficiency

Tammuz H. Alraheb, Christina Nicolas and Amine Tarazi

Institutional determinants of bank capital ratios

Discussant:
Wafik Grais

MACROECONOMICS
Empirical Evidence on Determinants of (and Impediments to) Economic Growth
Badiya (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Hassan Hakimian*

Speakers:
Fatma M. Utku-İsmihan

Knowledge, technological catch-up and economic growth

Ebaidalla Mahjoub Ebaidalla

Parallel market for foreign exchange in Sudan

Discussant:
Hoda Selim

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

MENA Countries and Market Factors

Gerasa (2nd Floor)

Chairperson: *Omneia Helmy*

Speakers:
Rihab Bellakhal , Sonia Ben Kheder and Houda Haffoudhi

Institutional and market factors driving renewable energy development in MENA region

Fida Karam and Chahir Zaki

Why Can't MENA Countries Trade More?

Discussant:
Wasseem Mina

LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Women Empowerment and Child Health

Nebo (2nd Floor)

Chairperson: *Massoud Karshenas*

Speakers:
Ahmed Elsayed and Rania Roushdy

Women's economic and social empowerment

Seyed M. Karimi

Pre-birth exposure to Ramadan, height, and the length of gestation

Discussant:
Meltem Dayioglu-Tayfur

MICROECONOMICS

Water management and scarcity

Pre-function room (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Hala Abou-Ali*

Speakers:
Abdelkader Bouslama and Mohamed Salah Matoussi

Hydro-economic modelling of an exhaustible & transboundary groundwater

Aymen Frija, Mariem Makhlob, Ali Chebil and Chokri Thabet

Potential adaptations of the Tunisian agricultural sector to water scarcity

Discussant:
Atif Kubursi

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

FDI and Growth

Gerasa (2nd Floor)

Chairperson: *Raed Safadi*

Speakers:
Wasseem Mina

The race to the top: Institutional clusters and world FDI shares

Hanan Abouel Farag & Mohamed Sayed Abed

The impact of foreign capital inflows on economic growth in Egypt

Discussant:
Fadia Hassan

LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Impact of International Migration

Nebo (2nd Floor)

Chairperson: *Abdulrazak Al-Faris*

Speakers:
Jonas Bausch, Paul Dyer, Drew Gardiner, Jochen Kluge, and Sonja Kovacevic

The impact of skills training on financial behavior & educational choice of youth

Bruno Crépon, Bastien Michel, Ghada Barsoum and William Parienté

Evaluating the effects of entrepreneurship edutainment in Egypt

Discussant:
Djavad Salehi Isfahani

MICROECONOMICS

Wage Differences and Inequalities in Tunisia

Pre-function room (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Heba Handoussa*

Speakers:
Mohamed Amara, Wajih Khallouli & Faicel Zidi

Public-private wage differentials in Tunisia

Hatem Jemmali

What drive regional economic inequalities in Tunisia?

Discussant:
Kabbashi Suliman

DAY THREE

9:00 – 11:00 **PLENARY SESSION 3: REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MENA: A STORY OF HIGH HOPES, STAGNATION AND SETBACKS** | Al Riwaq Ballroom (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Ahmed Galal* (Former Minister of Finance, Egypt and ERF)
Speakers: *Raed Safadi* (Dubai Department of Economic Development and ERF)
Catherine L. Mann (OECD)
Bernard Hoekman (European University and ERF)

11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Political Economy of Religion Ayla (2 nd Floor)	FINANCE Bank Lending and Credit Growth Zara (2 nd Floor)	MACROECONOMICS Fiscal Policy in Macroeconomic Policy Frameworks Badiya (Ground Floor)
Chairperson: <i>Majid Al-Moneef</i> Speakers: <i>Kristin Fabbe and Steve Monroe</i> In the shadows? Informal enterprise and the state in Jordan Discussant: <i>Jeffrey Nugent</i>	Chairperson: <i>Mouna Cherkaoui</i> Speakers: <i>Khamis Al-Yahyaee and Ahmed Al-Hadi</i> Family ownership concentration, outside board directorships, and board nomination committees <i>Mahmoud Arayssi</i> Financial development and economic growth under uprisings Discussant: <i>Samir Ghazouani</i>	Chairperson: <i>Sultan Abou-Ali</i> Speakers: <i>Assil El Mahmah and Magda Kandil</i> Fiscal consolidation and UAE vision 2021 <i>Sara B. Alnashar</i> Egypt's government spending multiplier Discussant: <i>Mahmoud El-Gamal</i>

13:00 – 14:30 **LUNCH**

14:30 – 16:00 **SPECIAL EVENT: CELEBRATING ERF BOOKS LAUNCH** | Al Riwaq Ballroom (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Heba Handoussa* (Egyptian Network for Integrated Development and ERF)
Speakers: *Ahmed Galal*, *The Middle East Economies in Times of Transition*
Ibrahim Elbadawi, *Understanding and avoiding the oil Curse in Resource Rich Arab Economies*
Discussants: *Shanta Devarajan* (The World Bank)
Hadi Esfahani (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

16:00 – 16:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

16:30 – 17:30 **PLENARY SESSION 4: AWARDS CEREMONY AND CLOSING** | Al Riwaq Ballroom (Ground Floor)

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS Effects of Sanctions Gerasa (2 nd Floor)	LABOR & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Job Search & Active Labor Market Programs Nebo (2 nd Floor)	MICROECONOMICS MSEs and Social Insurance Pre-function room (Ground Floor)	MICROECONOMICS Conflict and Revival Pella (2 nd Floor)
<p>Chairperson: <i>Bassam AbuAl-Foul</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Julian Hinz</i></p> <p>Friendly fire: Third country effects of sanctions</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Bernard Hoekman</i></p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Maha Rabbat</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Moundir Lassassi and Ibrahim Alhawarin</i></p> <p>Job search intensity and the role of social networks in finding a job in Arab countries</p> <p><i>Ali Souag and Ragui Assaad</i></p> <p>Labor market program and informality in Algeria</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Jackline Wahba</i></p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Najib Harabi</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Walid Merouani, Nacereddinne Hammouda and Claire El Mouddeh</i></p> <p>Don't they care about their future?</p> <p><i>Lahcen Achy and Rafik Selim</i></p> <p>Micro and small enterprises in Egypt: Access to finance and job creation dynamics</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Amirah El-Haddad</i></p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Samir Makdisi</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Shogher Garabed Ohannessia</i></p> <p>Conflict in Yemen and child malnutrition</p> <p><i>Maleke Fourati</i></p> <p>Envy and the Islamic revival: experimental evidence from Tunisia</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Shanta Devarajan</i></p>

PLENARY & SPECIAL SESSIONS SPEAKERS BIOS

Organized alphabetically by last name



Abdlatif Al-Hamad is director general and chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development; chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Economic Research Forum (ERF); trustee at the Arab Planning Institute; member of the International Finance Corporation Banking Advisory Board Group (World Bank); member of the Board of the Kuwait Investment Authority, chairperson of the Development Committee Task Force on Multilateral Development Banks; and member of the Board of Directors of BlackRock. Since the early 1960s, he has been highly active in promoting economic and social development, particularly in the Arab world. He served as the chairperson of the United Bank of Kuwait (1966-1981); and executive director of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (1972-1981). He was Kuwait's minister of finance and minister of planning (1981-1983). Al-Hamad has also served on numerous commissions and boards, including the United Nations Committee for Development Planning (1982-1991) and the Commission on Global Governance (1992).



Ragui Assaad is professor at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, where he chairs the Global Policy area and co-chairs its Master of Development Practice program. He has been a research fellow at ERF since 1994 and currently serves as its thematic leader for Labor and Human Resource Development and as a member of its Board of Trustees. His current research focuses on labor markets in the Arab World, youth transitions to adulthood, and inequality of opportunity. He holds a PhD in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University and an MA in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University.



Jaime De Melo is a professor emeritus from the University of Geneva, scientific director at the FERDI and Academic Director at the Geneva Business School. He is also a CEPR fellow, a non-resident fellow at Brookings Institution, and a member of EU-GDN. He has advised governments on trade policies and during WTO litigations and has consulted for the AfDB, the European Commission, the IMF, USAID, the World Bank, and participated in several projects with the LSE. A founding member of the World Trade Institute, he has held several editorial positions and was editor-in-chief of the World Bank Economic Review, 2005-2010.



Shanta Devarajan is the chief economist of the Middle East and North Africa Region at the World Bank. Since joining the World Bank in 1991, he has been a principal economist and research manager for public economics in the Development Research Group, and chief economist of the South Asia and Africa Regions and of the Human Development Network. Before 1991, he was on the faculty of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Devarajan's research covers public economics, trade policy, natural resources and the environment, and general equilibrium modeling of developing countries. Devarajan received his BA in mathematics from Princeton University and his PhD in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.



Ishac Diwan is currently the visiting Kuwait professor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and he holds the chair on the ran world at Paris Sciences et Lettres. He held several positions at the World Bank, in the Research Complex, the Middle East department, and the World Bank Institute, and was the Bank's regional director in Addis Ababa and then in Accra. His current research interests include growth strategies, the political economy of private sector development, and the analysis of public opinion, with a special interest in Africa and the Middle East. He is an ERF research fellow where he directs the Economic and Political Transformation program.



Ibrahim Elbadawi is the managing director of ERF. Earlier he served as the director of research at the Dubai Economic Council, which he joined in March 2009. Before that, he was lead economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank, which he joined in 1989. He has published widely on macroeconomic and development policy, democratic transitions and the economics of civil wars and post-conflict transitions. He was the thematic leader of the Natural Resource Management and Economic Diversification theme at the ERF for five years and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Arab Planning Institute. He holds a PhD in economics and statistics from NC State and Northwestern Universities.



Hadi Salehi Esfahani is a professor of economics and business administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and serves as the Director of the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and the Editor-in-Chief of the Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance. He is a Board member of the Economic Research Forum and the International Iranian Economic Association. He has also served as the President of Middle East Economic Association. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley. His research focuses on the role of politics and governance in economic policy formation in fiscal, labor, and trade areas, especially in the Middle East and North Africa.



Ahmed Galal is the chairman of the board of the MENA Health Policy Forum. Until December 2016, he was the managing director of the Economic Research Forum, for ten years. Galal was Egypt's Finance Minister between July 2013 and March 2014. Previously, he worked for the World Bank for 18 years where he conducted research and provided policy advice to governments in several countries around the world. While on leave from the Bank (2000-2006), he was the Executive Director and Director of Research of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES). Galal authored or co-authored more than dozen books, including "Welfare Consequences of Selling Public Enterprises", "The Road Not Traveled: Education Reform in the Middle East and North Africa". In 2004, he was awarded the prestigious regional prize for Economic and Social Sciences by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences. Galal holds a PhD in economics from Boston University.



Louis Goodman is emeritus dean and professor at American University's School of International Service. He carries out research on economic development, social change and politics in Latin America and in Asia, currently focusing on public goods and regional alliances. He has published widely on civil-military relations in Latin America, on foreign investment in developing countries and on determinants of career success for blue-collar workers. He has researched and lived abroad in Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Singapore. Dr. Goodman's forthcoming book is 21st Century Cooperation: Regional Public Goods, Global Governance, and Sustainable Development, co-edited with Antoni Esteveadeordal (Routledge:2017)



Jan Willem Gunning is emeritus professor of development at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He chairs the board of the Amsterdam Institute for International Development (AIID), has been a staff member of the World Bank and professor at the University of Oxford where he was the director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Auvergne (France) for his leading role in economic research on Africa, and is a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). He served as the Academy's general secretary in 2011-16.



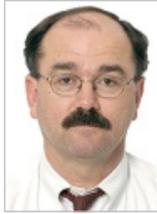
Abdalla Hamdok is the acting executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) since November 2016. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of ECA. Previously, he served ECA in various senior-level capacities overseeing institutional portfolios of activities on development policy management, NEPAD and regional integration, and governance and public administration. He has brought to his current position over 30 years of experience as a senior policy analyst and economist on addressing diverse development challenges of the African policy landscape. From 2003-2008, he served the International IDEA as Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East. Earlier, he worked as Chief Technical Advisor (1995-1997) at the International Labour Organization, Zimbabwe. Hamdok holds a PhD and MA in Economics from the School of Economic Studies, University of Manchester, UK.



Heba Handoussa is founder of the Egypt Network for Integrated Development (ENID) in 2012. She was the lead Author of the Egypt Human Development Report (EHDR) 2010 which was the best report across over 50 countries and Director and Lead Author of three previous EHDRs. She was Founder and Director of the Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey. She taught at the American University in Cairo (AUC). She has consistently served as an advisor to the Egyptian government. She has served on the board of international and regional research-related institutions including CEDEJ, IFPRI, UNRISD and the WBI Advisory Board of the World Bank. She has been selected to become member of the World Bank Chief Economist's Council of Eminent Persons (CEP) in 2015.

PLENARY & SPECIAL SESSIONS SPEAKERS BIOS

Organized alphabetically by last name



Bernard Hoekman is professor and director, Global Economics at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute in Florence, Italy. Prior positions include director of the International Trade Department and Research Manager in the Development Research Group of the World Bank. He has been an economist in the GATT Secretariat and held visiting positions at SciencesPo, Paris. A graduate of the Erasmus University Rotterdam, he obtained his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan. He is a CEPR Research Fellow, where he also co-directs the Trade Policy Research Network; a Senior Associate of the Economic Research Forum for the Arab countries, Turkey and Iran; and a member of the World Economic Forum Global Action Council on Logistics and Supply Chains.



Caroline Krafft is an assistant professor of economics at St. Catherine University. She received her master's degree in public policy from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs and her PhD from the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. Her research examines issues in development economics, primarily labor, education, health, and inequality in the Middle East and North Africa. Current projects include work on refugees, labor market dynamics, life course transitions, human capital accumulation, and fertility.



Samir Makdisi is professor emeritus of economics and founding director of the Institute of Financial Economics, the American University of Beirut (AUB). He has served as Minister of Economy and Trade, Republic of Lebanon, 1992 and Deputy President of AUB, 1992-1998; member of the Board of Trustees of the Economic Research Forum and of the Board of Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean Economic Research Institutes (FEMISE). He is co-editor (with Ibrahim Elbadawi) of *Democracy in the Arab World: Explaining the Deficit* (2011) and *Democratic Transitions in the Arab World*, 2017. He received his Ph.D in Economics from Columbia University.



Catherine L. Mann is OECD chief economist and head of the economics department since October 2014. She has enjoyed a distinguished career in the public sector and academia. Following 20-plus years in Washington DC, she was the Rosenberg Professor of Global Finance at Brandeis University and from 1997-2011 was a Senior Fellow and visiting Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Earlier Ms. Mann served in many high-profile positions at the World Bank and the Federal Reserve Board as a Senior Economist. She is a US citizen and holds a PhD in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Harvard University. Her research spans two main topics – global imbalances and globalization of technology and services. She has authored or co-authored seven books, 60 articles, and numerous shorter pieces and testimony.



Amre Moussa, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the U.N (1990-1991), Foreign Minister of Egypt (1991-2001), Secretary General of the League of Arab States, (2001-2011). Moussa ran for President of Egypt after the 25th of January Revolution, then was elected in the Constitutional Committee 2012 and led the Liberal members' efforts for a more liberal Constitution. Moussa then founded the Congress party. He was the convener of the initial meeting of the Egyptian opposition (National Salvation Front) against the Presidential dictatorial constitutional decree in 2012 that caused it to be retracted. Moussa was among the leaders who strongly supported the June 30th revolution that deposed ex-president Morsi. Moussa was then elected Chairman of the 2013 "50 member Committee" which drafted the existing Constitution of Egypt. He was awarded several orders and decorations Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Brazil, Argentina, Germany and Ecuador.



Hanan Nazier is an associate professor at the Economics Department, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. She was a visiting scholar at Hamburg University, Germany in June 2013 and at Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA in July-August 2011. During the spring semester of 2014, she was a visiting scholar at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Minnesota University, working under the supervision of Professor Ragui Assaad. Her research interest is applied micro-econometrics, on gender and labor issues in Egypt and developing countries in general. She has published her research articles in different international peer-reviewed journals, including *Middle Eastern Finance and Economics Journal* and *Advances in Management*. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics, in 2009 from Cairo University under the supervision of Professor Ahmed Ghoniem.



Raed Safadi is the chief economic adviser at Dubai's Department of Economic Development where he leads a team of experts entrusted with the implementation of Dubai's Strategic Plan 2021, and promoting the diversification and sustainable growth of Dubai and its transformation into a knowledge-based economy. Dr. Safadi is a leading expert on development economics and has extensive experience advising governments on economic policy and management. He has published an extensive array of books and articles covering such areas as economic development, regional trading arrangements and the world trading system, tariffs and non-tariff barriers, special and differential treatment, trade and environment, services trade, and global value chains. Dr. Safadi has previously worked for the OECD, World Bank, ESCWA and as a consultant for numerous governments, regional development banks and UN agencies.



Ibrahim Saif was appointed by a Royal Decree as the Minister of Energy & Mineral Resources 02 March 2015. He previously served as the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation on March 2013 until March 2015. Saif holds a M.Sc. and a PhD in Economics from the University of London. Prior to being appointed as a Minister, Saif was a Senior Scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center, and served as a consultant to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international organizations. Saif was also a former director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, and served as the Secretary General of the Economic and Social Council in Jordan. He has taught at both the University of London and Yale University, where he led courses on the economies of the Middle East.



André Sapir is university professor at the Université libre de Bruxelles and senior fellow of Bruegel, the Brussels-based think tank. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Graduate Institute in Geneva, the College of Europe in Bruges, and was visiting fellow at the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO. He worked 12 years at the European Commission, first as Economic Advisor to the Director-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, and then as Principal Economic Advisor to President Prodi. He has written extensively on European integration, international trade, and globalization. He holds a PhD in Economics from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.



Irene Selwaness is an assistant professor of Economics at Cairo University. She worked closely with the Population Council, Cairo office, as a Fred H. Bixby post-doctoral fellow on several projects including the 2014 Survey of Young People (SYPE), Mapping Gender Pathways to Exclusion in Upper Egypt, Social Protection and the Working Poor, and the implementation and the impact evaluation of Neqdar Nesharek ("We Can Participate" in Arabic)—a vocational training and entrepreneurship program to help young women to make a successful transition to work in Upper Egypt. Her main research interest is labor economics in developing countries. Her current research focuses on the link between informality and social security coverage gap in Egypt, youth employment and school-to-work transition, marriage and employment issues in the Middle East. She holds a Ph.D. in Labor Economics from University of Paris 1- Panthéon Sorbonne (France).



Kathryn Yount, PhD, is Asa Griggs Candler chair of Global Health and Professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health and Department of Sociology at Emory University. She is jointly appointed in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education as well as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. A social and family demographer trained at Johns Hopkins University, she has more than 20 years of experience conducting large-scale, mixed-methods studies on women's and children's health, women's empowerment, and gender-based violence in settings in Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and the United States. Dr. Yount has led or collaborated on more than 30 research grants from federal agencies (NIH, NSF, CDC), multilateral agencies (USAID, WHO, World Bank, UNDP), governments overseas (DfID), and private foundations (Mellon, Sloan, Qatar National Research Fund) and has authored more than 140 publications in top venues in the social sciences and public health.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

A

Touhami Abdelkhalek

National Institute of Statistics
and Applied Economics (INSEA)
Morocco
touhami@mail.com

Abla Abdel Latif

Egyptian Center for Economic Studies
(ECES)
Egypt
alatif@eces.org.eg

Hany Abdel-Latif

Swansea University
United Kingdom
H.Abdel-Latif@swansea.ac.uk

Hala Abou-Ali

Cairo University
Egypt
habouali@feps.edu.eg

Sultan Abou-Ali

Zagazig University
Egypt
sabouali2007@yahoo.com

Hanan Abouel Farag

Damanhour University
Egypt
hanan_3a@yahoo.com

Bassam Abu AL-Foul

American University of Sharjah
UAE
babufoul@aus.edu

Taher Hamdi Abu El Sanan

High Health Council Secretary General
Jordan
taherhhc@yahoo.com

Musa Ajlouni

Philadelphia University
Jordan
ajluni1@gmail.com

Ali T. Akarca

University of Illinois
USA
akarca@uic.edu

Abdulrazak Al-Faris

Dubai Economic Council
UAE
aalfaris@dec.org.ae

Abdlatif Al-Hamad

Arab Fund for Economic & Social
Development (AFESD)
Kuwait
ohossam@arabfund.org

Ibrahim Alhawarin

Al Hussien Bin Talal University
Jordan
ibrahimhawarin@ahu.edu.jo

Majid Al Moneef

Consultant
Saudi Arabia
moneefma@gmail.com

Sara Alnashar

The World Bank
Egypt
salnashar@worldbank.org

Ali Al Sadik

Dubai Economic Council
UAE
aalsadik@dec.org.ae

Fatima Al Shamsi

Paris-Sorbonne University - Abu Dhabi
UAE
falshamsi@psuad.ac.ae

Khamis Al-Yahyaee

Sultan Qaboos University
Oman
yahyai@squ.edu.om

Mohamed Amara

High Institute of Management of Sousse
Tunisia
mohamed.amara.isg@gmail.com

Mona Amer

Cairo University
Egypt
mona_amer@yahoo.fr

Salim Araji

ESCWA
Lebanon
salim.araji@gmail.com

Mahmoud Arayssi

Adnan Kassar School of Business
Lebanon
mahmoud.arayssi@lau.edu.lb

Ragui Assaad

University of Minnesota
USA
assaad@umn.edu

Patricia Augier

Aix-Marseille Université, Marseille
France
patricia.augier@univ-amu.fr

B

Ziad Bahaa El-Din

Egyptian Initiative for the Prevention
of Corruption
Egypt
zbahaa@aucegypt.edu

Jonas Bausch

International Labour Organization
Switzerland
bausch@ilo.org

Rihab Bellakhal

Campus Universitaire Manouba
Tunisia
bellakhal_rihab@yahoo.fr

Nancy Benjamin

World Bank
USA
nbenjamin@worldbank.org

Mongi Boughzala

University of Tunis El Manar
Tunisia
mhboughzala@gmail.com

Abdelkader Bouslama

University of Carthage
Tunisia
bouslama_abdelkader@yahoo.fr

Jay Bowman

University of Minnesota
USA
bowman.jay@gmail.com

C**Mohamed Chaffai**

University of Sfax
Tunisia
mechaffai@gmail.com

Ali Chebil

ICARDA
Tunisia
chebila@yahoo.es

Mouna Cherkaoui

University of Mohamed V
Morocco
cherkaoui.mouna@hotmail.com

Mine Cinar

Loyola University
USA
mcinar@luc.edu

Bruce Currie-Alder

International Development Research Centre
(IDRC)
Canada
bcurrie-alder@idrc.ca

D**Nurhan Davutyan**

Kadir Has University
Turkey
dnurhan@hotmail.com

Meltem Dayioglu Tayfur

Middle East Technical University
Turkey
dmeltem@metu.edu.tr

Jaime de Melo

FERDI and University of Geneva
Switzerland
Jaime.DeMelo@unige.ch

Shanta Devarajan

World Bank
USA
sdevarajan@worldbank.org

Ishac Diwan

Harvard University
USA
Ishac_Diwan@hks.harvard.edu

E**Ebaidalla Mahjoub Ebaidalla**

University of Khartoum
Sudan
ebaidallamahjoub@yahoo.com

Ibrahim A. Elbadawi

Economic Research Forum
Egypt
ielbadawi@erf.org.eg

Hind ELFalaky

Researcher
USA
Hind.elfalaky@gmail.com

Mahmoud El-Gamal

Rice University
USA
elgamal@rice.edu

Moushira Elgeziri

Ford Foundation
Egypt
M.Elgeziri@fordfoundation.org

Amirah El-Haddad

German Development Institute
Germany
Amirah.El-Haddad@die-gdi.de

Mahmoud EL Jafari

AL-Quds University
Palestine
mjafari@staff.alquds.edu

Assil El Mahmah

Central Bank of the UAE
UAE
assil.elmahmah@yahoo.fr

Nelly El Mallakh

University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne
France
nelly.elmallakh@hotmail.com

Najat El Mekkaoui

University Paris Dauphine
France
najat.el-mekkaoui@dauphine.fr

Ahmed Elsayed

IZA – Institute of Labor Economics
Germany
elsayed@iza.org

Mehmet Eris

ESCWA
Lebanon
eris@un.org

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Hadi Esfahani

University of Illinois
USA
esfahani@uiuc.edu

F

Dhuha Fadhel

Dubai Economic Council
UAE
dfadhel@dec.org.ae

Belal Fallah

Palestine Polytechnic University
Palestine
bfallah2000@yahoo.com

Mahmoud Farghally

Researcher
UAE
mahmoudahmed1002@gmail.com

Mohammad Reza Farzanegan

Center For Near And Middle Eastern Studies
(CNMS)
Germany
farzanegan@uni-marburg.de

Maleke Fourati

University of New South Wales (UNSW)
Australia
m.fourati@student.unsw.edu.au

Aymen Frija

Agricultural Center for Agricultural Research
in the Dry Areas
Jordan
a.frija@cgiar.org

G

May Gadallah

Cairo University
Egypt
maygad@feps.edu.eg

Ahmed Galal

MENA Health Policy Forum
Egypt
agalal@erf.org.eg

Rami Galal

The American University in Cairo
Egypt
rami_galal@soas.ac.uk

Yousuf Garashi

Kuwait University
United Kingdom
yousuf@cba.edu.kw

Drew Gardiner

International Labour Organization
Switzerland
dhgardiner@gmail.com

Isabelle Gaysset

American University of Beirut
Lebanon
i.gaysset@gmail.com

Samir Ghazouani

University of Manouba
Tunisia
samir.ghazouani@gmail.com

Sherine Ghoneim

Economic Research Forum
Egypt
sghoneim@erf.org.eg

Louis W. Goodman

American University in Washington
USA
goodman@american.edu

Wafik Grajs

Central Bank of the Republic of San Marino
Italy
wgrais@gmail.com

Jan Willem Gunning

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
The Netherlands
j.w.gunning@vu.nl

H

Mahmoud Hailat

Yarmouk University
Jordan
mahailat@yu.edu.jo

Hassan Hakimian

University of London
United Kingdom
H.Hakimian@soas.ac.uk

Abdalla Hamdok

United Nations Economic Commission
for Africa (UNECA)
Ethiopia
ahamdok@uneca.org

Shawkat Hammoudeh

Drexel University
USA
hammousm@drexel.edu

Zaid Hamzeh

Former Minister of Health
Jordan
Zaidhamzeh1932@gmail.com

Heba Handoussa

Egypt Network for Integrated Development
(ENID)
Egypt
heba.handoussa@gmail.com

Ilham Haouas

Abu Dhabi University
UAE
ilham.haouas@adu.ac.ae

Najib Harabi

University of Applied Sciences
Switzerland
najib.harabi@fhnw.ch

Fadia Hassan

University of Khartoum
Sudan
fadia_khassan@yahoo.com

Rasha Hassan

Population Council
Egypt
Rasha82m@gmail.com

Omneia Helmy

Cairo University
Egypt
omneia.helmy@feps.edu.eg

Julian Hinz

Kiel Institute for the World Economy
Germany
mail@julianhinz.com

Naouel Chtioui Hizaoui

Higher Institute of Applied Languages and
Computer Sciences of Beja
Tunisia
naouel.tunisie@gmail.com

Bernard Hoekman

European University Institute
Italy
Bernard.Hoekman@EUI.eu

Amr Hosny

International Monetary Fund
USA
ahosny@imf.org

I**Hosam Ibrahim**

American University in Cairo
Egypt
hosamm.ibrahim@gmail.com

Gamal Ibrahim

UN Economic Commission for Africa
Ethiopia
GeIbrahim@uneca.org

Fatma Muazzez İsmihan

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
Turkey
fmutku@yahoo.com

J**Hatem Jemmali**

University of Tunis El-Manar
Tunisia
hatemjemmali79@gmail.com

K**Taher Kanaan**

Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies
Jordan
taher.kanaan@gmail.com

Magda Kandil

Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates
UAE
ekmagda11@gmail.com

Marwan Kardoosh

Economist
Jordan
kardooshm@yahoo.com

Seyed M. Karimi

University of Washington
USA
skarimi2@uw.edu

Massoud Karshenas

University of London
United Kingdom
mkarshenas@gmail.com

Saed Khalil

Palestine Monetary Authority
Palestine
skhalil79@gmail.com

Deena Khalil

Takween Integrated Community
Development
Egypt
d.khalil@takween-eg.com

Murat Kirdar

Bogazici University
Turkey
murat.kirdar@boun.edu.tr

Khalid M. Kisswani

Gulf University for Science &
Technology
Kuwait
kisswani.k@gust.edu.kw

Caroline Krafft

University of St. Katherine
USA
cgkrafft@stkate.edu

Hendrik Kruse

University of Göttingen
Germany
hkruse@gwdg.de

Atif A. Kubursi

McMaster University
Canada
kubursi@gmail.com

L**Moundir Lassassi**

Centre for Research in Applied
Economics for Development
Algeria
moundir81m@yahoo.fr

Maryse Louis

FEMISE
United Kingdom
m.louis@femise.org

M**Mahdi Majbouri**

Babson College
USA
mmajbouri@babson.edu

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Samir Makdisi

American University of Beirut
Lebanon
makdisi@aub.edu.lb

Paul Makdissi

University of Ottawa
Canada
pmakdissi@gmail.com

Adeel Malik

University of Oxford
United Kingdom
adeel.malik@qeh.ox.ac.uk

Catherine L. Mann

OECD
France
catherine.mann@oecd.org

Minko Tzenkov Markovski

Central Bank of the UAE
UAE
minko.markovski@cbuae.gov.ae

Mohamed Ali Marouani

University Paris1-Panthéon-Sorbonne
France
mohamed-ali.marouani@univ-paris1.fr

Samer Matta

University of Nottingham
UK
Samer.Matta@nottingham.ac.uk

Walid Mensi

University of Tunis - El Manar
Tunisia
walid.mensi@fsegt.rnu.tn

Walid Merouani

Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée
pour le Développement CREAD
Algeria
merouaniwalid@hotmail.fr

Wasseem Mina

United Arab Emirates University
UAE
wmina@uaeu.ac.ae

Ida A. Mirzaie

Ohio State University
USA
mirzaie.1@osu.edu

Kamiar Mohaddes

University of Cambridge
United Kingdom
km418@cam.ac.uk

Hamid Mohtadi

University of Wisconsin
USA
mohtadi@uwm.edu

Steve Monroe

Princeton University
USA
smonroe@princeton.edu

Rabeh Morrar

Al-Najah National University
Palestine
Rabeh.morrar@najah.edu

Amre Moussa

Former Secretary General of League
of Arab States and Former Egyptian
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Egypt

N

Mustapha Nabli

North Africa Bureau of Economic Studies
Intl (NABES)
Tunisia
mknabli@gmail.com

Nader Naifar

Al-Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic
University (IMSIU)
Saudi Arabia
naneifar@imamu.edu.sa

Hanan Nazier

Cairo University
Egypt
Hanan.nazier@feps.edu.eg

Simon Neaime

American University of Beirut
Lebanon
sn01@aub.edu.lb

Christina Nicolas

Université de Limoges
France
nicolas.christina89@gmail.com

Diaa Noureldin

American University in Cairo
Egypt
diaa.noureldin@aucegypt.edu

Jeffrey Nugent

University of Southern California
USA
nugent@usc.edu

O

Shogher Ohannessian

University of Beirut
Lebanon
shogher.ohannessian@gmail.com

Hossam Omar

Arab Fund for Economic & Social
Development (AFESD)
Kuwait
ohossam@arabfund.org

P

Patrick Plane

Université d'Auvergne
France
patrick.plane@uca.fr

R

Maha Rabbat

MENA Policy Health Forum
Egypt
maha.rabbat@menahpf.org

Eman Refaat

Economic Policy & Research Centre
UAE
erefaat@dec.org.ae

Curt Rhodes

Questscope
Jordan
curt.rhodes@questscope.org

Reham Rizk

British University in Egypt
Egypt
reham.rizk@bue.edu.eg

Rania Roushdy

Population Council
Egypt
rroushdy@popcouncil.org

S

Raed Safadi

Dubai Department of Economic
Development
UAE
Raed.Safadi@dubaied.gov.ae

Mona Said

American University in Cairo
Egypt
mona_said@aucegypt.edu

Ibrahim Saif

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources
Jordan
ibrahim.saif@memr.gov.jo

Mohamed Saleh

Toulouse School of Economics
France
mohamed.saleh@tse-fr.eu

Djavad Salehi-Isfahani

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State
University
USA
salehi@vt.edu

Colette Salemi

University of Minnesota
USA
salem043@umn.edu

Andre Sapir

Universite libre de Bruxelles
Belgium
Andre.SAPIR@ulb.ac.be

Hoda Selim

Dubai Economic Council
UAE
hselim@dec.org.ae

Rafik Selim

International Monetary Fund
Kuwait
RSelim@imf.org

Refk Selmi

University of Tunis
Tunisia
s.refk@yahoo.fr

Irene Selwaness

Cairo University
Egypt
irene.selwaness@feps.edu.eg

Radwan Shaban

Arab Bank
Jordan
Rshaban1957@gmail.com

Maia Sieverding

American University of Beirut
Lebanon
maia.sieverding@gmail.com

Houcem Smaoui

Qatar University
Qatar
hsmaoui@qu.edu.qa

Ali Souag

University of Mascara
Algeria
Souag_ali@yahoo.fr

Khawlah Abdalla Spetan

University of Jordan
Jordan
khawlahs2000@yahoo.com

Kabbashi M. Suliman

University of Khartoum
Sudan
kmsuliman1@yahoo.co.uk

T

Aysit Tansel

Middle East Technical University
Turkey
atansel@metu.edu.tr

Bedri Kamil Onur Tas

Tobb University
Turkey
onurtas@etu.edu.tr

Ghada Tayem

University of Jordan
Jordan
g.tayem@ju.edu.jo

Constantin Tsakas

Femise
France
c.tsakas@femise.org

PARTICIPANTS LIST

V

Romesh Vaitilingam

Writer and Media Consultant
United Kingdom
romesh@vaitilingam.com

Press

Abdelaziz Al Masry

El Watan Newspaper
Egypt
elmasry_abdelaziz@hotmail.com

W

Jackline Wahba

University of Southampton
United Kingdom
J.Wahba@soton.ac.uk

Eman El-Iraqi

Al-Ahram Newspaper
Egypt
eman_eraqi@hotmail.com

Hayat Hussien

Al-Shorouk Newspaper
Egypt
hayathussein2@gmail.com

Y

Hadeel Yaseen

University of Jordan
Jordan
hsyaseen@hotmail.com

Mohamed Negm

October Magazine
Egypt
negm3030@hotmail.com

Mesbah Qotb

Al Masry Al Youm
Egypt
mesbahkotb@gmail.com

Kathryn M. Yount

Emory University
USA
kathryn.yount@emory.edu

Khalil Rashad

Middle East News Agency
Egypt
khalilrashad@gmail.com

Z

Chahir Zaki

Cairo University
Egypt
chahir.zaki@feps.edu.eg

Mahmoud Salem

Al-Akhbar Newspaper
Egypt
mahmoudsalem838@hotmail.com

Niveen Wahish

Al-Ahram Weekly
Egypt
nwahish@yahoo.com

Jamel Eddine Zarrouk

Economic Policy and Research Centre
UAE
jzarrouk@dec.org.ae

ERF Management and Staff

Management

Ibrahim Elbadawi
Managing Director

Marwa Afifi
Executive Assistant to
Managing Director

Research

Chahir Zaki
Economist (Part-time)

Christiane Wissa
Statistics Manager

Doaa El-Damaty
Statistician

Yasmine Fekry
Statistician

Madonna Magdy
Junior Statistician

Jala Youssef
Researcher

Programs

Yasmine Fahim
Programs Manager

Maryse Louis
FEMISE Program Director

Ingy Hab El Roman
Programs Assistant

Ramage Nada
Programs Officer

Sara Taraman
Programs Officer

Communications

Sherine Ghoneim
Director of Communications (*Designated*)

Hoda Azmi
Conference Manager

Namees Nabeel
Communications Manager

Rana Mohamed
Communications Assistant

Administration and Finance

Mohamed Youssri
Director of Finance
and Administration

Mohamed Aladdine
Accountant

Anais Hagopian
Senior Administrative Officer

Sherif Osama
Senior Accountant