



ERF 10th Annual Conference

Marrakech - Morocco
16-18 December 2003

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday 15th December: Pre Conference Activities

9:30 – 1:30 *ERF Advisory Committee Meeting – Closed Meeting*

Lunch Break 1:30 - 2:30

2:30 – 5:30 *Country Profiles*

The country profiles' objective is to monitor the transition of the countries in question with an analytical view that could assist the policy-making community in designing their policies. In this session presentations of Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, and Morocco country profiles will take place by the teams of the four countries. ERF and the Institut de La Mediterranee (IM) are coordinating the country profiles under FEMISE program. The country profiles receives financial support from the European Commission and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

- *A session on "Bridging Policy and Research (the date to be determined).*

Promotion of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Recruitment Program
Head of the IMF Mission: *****

Day 1: Tuesday 16 December

8:00 – 9:00 *Registration*

9:00-9:30 *Plenary Session: Opening Ceremony*
His Majesty King Mohamed VI*

9:30-11:00 *Plenary Session: Keynote Speeches*
Speakers:
- **Joseph Stigliz** *: **Globalization and Development in the MENA Region**
- **Deepak Nayyar**: **Globalization and Migration in the MENA Region**
- **Dani Rodrik**: **What have we Learned from Twenty Years of Economic Reform?**

Morning Sessions (5 Parallel Sessions) 11: 00– 1:30

The conference is multi-topic based on the ERF research agenda which includes labor, trade, macro management and finance, and sectoral economics. The focus of the papers

presented is on key economic issues that are of importance for the MENA region. Some of the issues to be discussed under: 1) Labor: poverty and labor Markets behavior; trade liberalization and labor demand; return to education: 2) Trade: trade and development in ICT; FDI flows to MENA region, Impact of regulation and institutional environment on FDI; exchange rate regimes in MENA; Impact of FTA (bilateral and multilateral) on MENA: 3) Macro management and finance issues: economic performance and political outcome, currency crises in the MENA, tax reform in MENA, financial integration, Islamic banking: 4) Sectoral economics: water demand in MENA region; competitiveness and manufacturing industry in MENA.

Session: “From Doha to Cancun”

This session will aim to shed light on the implications of the stalemate in WTO negotiations on MENA countries and the identification of MENA countries interests and strategies for participating in the process of reviving the Doha Development Round. It will also attempt to address the capacity building challenges that MENA countries face in enhancing their participation in the multilateral trading system.

Session: Country Profiles

Lunch Break 1:30 - 2:30

Afternoon Sessions 2:30 – 6:30

2:30 – 3:30 Panel Presentation on Arab Human Development Report

A presentation of the forthcoming AHDR followed by open discussion.

Chair: Rima Khalaf

Speaker: Nader Fergani

3:30 – 6:30

5 Parallel Sessions

Economic Policy and Performance in the Middle East and North Africa: Essays in Honor of Heba Handoussa

Presentations of the essays to be included in a volume in honor of Prof. Heba Handoussa. The volume is a collection of work on themes and issues that she has contributed to either through her scholarly writings or through her leadership role in the ERF.

Session: Country Profiles

6:30 – 7:30 ERF Research Fellows Meeting – Closed Meeting

Welcome Dinner Hosted by *** 8:30**

Day 2: Wednesday 17 December

10:00 – 4:00 ERF Board of Trustees Meeting – Closed Meeting

Morning Sessions (5 Parallel Sessions) 9:00 – 12:00

Economic Policy and Performance in the Middle East and North Africa: Essays in Honor of Heba Handoussa (Continued)

Session on “Bridging Data and Research”

12:00 – 12:30 Eddy Lee^{}: "Globalization and Governance in the MENA Region”**

12:30 – 1:30 Launching of the UNDP Report on “Making Global Trade Work for the Poor”

Lunch Break 1:30 - 2:30

Afternoon Sessions (4 Parallel Sessions) 2:30 – 5:50

Session on “Bridging Data and Research”

Day 3: Thursday 18 December

Morning Sessions 9:00 – 1:30

9:00 – 11:00 GCC Countries’ and their Development

The session will focus on two important issues that interest the GCC countries, the first is the issue of the employment, and the second is the energy and oil industry.

Chair:

Speakers: **H.E. Ibrahim El Namla* – Minister of Labor, Saudi Arabia**
Robert Mabro – Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

(5 Parallel Sessions) 11:00 – 1:30

Session on “Industrial Sector in the MENA Region”

A panel to discuss the issues pertaining to the industrial sector in the region. The discussion will discuss issues surrounding the performance and dynamics of the industrial sector in the region such as the industrial policy, and assessment of the competitiveness of various industrial sub-sectors in different countries and their performance.

Chair:

Speakers: - **Sanjaya Lall** -**Ha-Joon chang** - **Ajit Singh**

Lunch Break 1:00 - 2:30

2:30 – 4:30 *Round table on ERF Evaluation – Closed Meeting*

4:30 – 5:00 *Wrap-up & Closing Session*
&
Prize Ceremony for the Best Policy Oriented paper

* To be confirmed.