

Under the auspices of H.E. the Prime Minister of Egypt

Sunday 18 December 2005

09:00 -17:00	Early Registration
09:00 – 18:30	MSE Final Conference on "Promoting Competitiveness in Micro and Small Enterprises in the MENA region"
	Laylaty 1
Session 1: 09:00 – 10:00	Opening session: Contribution of the MSE Sector in Economic Growth: Great Potentials Chair: Samir Radwan, <i>Managing Director, ERF</i>
	Speakers: Dr. Hany Seif El Nasr, <i>Director, Social Fund for Development, Egypt</i> H.E. Nayla Moawad, <i>Minister of Social Affairs, Lebanon</i>
	Keynote speaker: H.E. Dr. Othman M. Othman, <i>Minister of Planning, Egypt</i>
Session 2: 10:00 – 11:30	The MSE Sector in Egypt: Great Room for Improvement Chair: Heba Handoussa, <i>Advisor, Economic Research Forum</i>
	Speakers 10:00 - 10:30 Alia El Mahdy, <i>Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, Cairo University</i>
	Discussants comments: 10:30 - 10:45 Ragui Assaad, <i>Population Council, Egypt</i>
	10:45 - 11:00 Helmy Abou El-Eish, <i>Industrial Modernization Center, Egypt</i>
	11:00 - 11:30 Floor Discussion
11:30 – 12:00	Contact Break
	Foyer
Session 3: 12:00 – 13:30	The MSE Sector in Lebanon: Building on Indigenous Entrepreneurship Chair: Samir Makdisi, <i>Professor, American University in Beirut</i>
	Speakers: 12:00 – 12:30 Kamal Hamdan, <i>Consultation & Research Institute, Lebanon</i>
	Discussion and comments: 12:30 – 12:45 Toufic Gaspard, <i>Independent Consultant, Lebanon</i>
	12:45 – 13:00 Haysam Omar, <i>Economic & Social Fund for Development, Lebanon</i>
	13:00 – 13:30 Floor Discussion
13:30 – 15: 00	Lunch
	Nile Expo
Session 4 15:00 – 16:30	The MSE Sector in Turkey: Policies and Performance Chair: Ihasan Solamaz, <i>Vice President, KOSGEB</i>
	Speakers: 15:00 - 15:30 Sems Ozar, <i>Department of Economics, Bogazici University, Turkey</i>
	Discussion and comments: 15:30 - 15:45 Umit Izmen, <i>Association of Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen, Turkey</i>
	15:45 - 16:00 Nurhan Davutyan, <i>School of Engineering, Marmara University, Turkey</i>
	16:00 - 16:30 Floor Discussion
16:30 – 17:00	Contact Break
	Foyer
Session 5 17:00 – 18:30	The MSE sector in Morocco: Dynamic and Growing Role of Women Chair: Mohamed Raja Amrani, <i>Director of Monnaie Finance Banque, Morocco</i>
	Speakers: 17:00 – 17:30 Bachir Hamdouch, <i>INSEA, Morocco</i>
	Discussion and comments 17:30 - 17:45 Jilali Rahali, <i>Direction de Statistique, Morocco</i>
	17:45 - 18:00 Mohamed Boussetta, <i>Faculte des Sciences Juridiques, Econ. et Sociales, Université Mohammed V</i>
	18:00 – 18:30 Floor Discussion

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Parallel Meetings

Ongoing Research Competition (GDN)	Country Profiles
Akhnaton 2	Akhnaton 1
Monetary Issues	Chair: Tarik Yousef
9:00-9:30 - Efficiency, Fortrihn Bank Entry and Corporate Governance of Islamic Banks in the MENA Region	09:00 – 09:30 – Opening Remarks
Speaker: Kabir Hassan, University of New Orleans, USA	
9:30-10:00 - Gulf Monetary Union & Regional Integration	09:30 – 10:30
Speaker: Kabir Hassan, University of New Orleans, USA	Bahrain country profile report outline
	Discussion
10:00-10:30 - The Impact of Governance and Diversity on Growth in MENA: A Time Series and Cross-Country Analysis	10:30 – 11:00
Speaker: Sam Hakim, Pepperdine University, USA	Oman country profile report outline
	Discussion
10:30-11:00 - Monetary Union Among the GCC Countries & the Appropriate Exchange Rate Policy and Monetary Policy Coordination	11:30 – 12:00
Speaker: Bassem Kamar, University of Monaco	Contact Break
11:00-11:30 - The Determinants of FDI in the MENA Countries: An Extreme Bounds Analysis	Foyer
Speaker: Imad Moosa, La Trobe University, Australia	12:00 – 13:00
	Yemen country profile report outline
11:30 – 12:00	Discussion
Contact Break	
Foyer	13:00 – 13:30
Regional Integration	Wrap up and Closing
12:00-12:30 - Intégration Sud-Sud Et Son Impact Sur Les Pays Arabes du Sud De La Méditerranée: Le Cas Des Pays De La Déclaration d' Agadir	
Speaker: Mohamed Boussetta, Faculté des sciences juridiques, économiques et sociaux, Morocco	
Health	
12:30-13:00 - Poverty & Urban Health in Sudan	
Speaker: Rania Roushdy, Population Council, Egypt	
Sectoral Economics	
13:00-13:30 - Poverty among Social Groups, Effects on Farming Systems & Resources	
Speaker: Raga El-Zaki, University of Gezera, Sudan	
Lunch: Nile Expo	

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Parallel Meetings

Ongoing Research Competition (GDN)

Akhnaton 2

Sectoral Economics (continued)

15:00-15:30 - The Incidence of Transfer of Knowledge within the Arab Societies

Speaker: Samia M. Nour, The United Nations University, Netherlands

15:30-16:00 - Mitigating Water Shortage in MENA Countries Through Optimization of Agricultural Water Use & Trade Patterns: The Case of Iran

Speaker: Reza Soltani, Shiraz University, Iran

Labor Markets, Human Resource Developments & Migration

16:00-16:30 - Private Investment in the Palestinian Higher Education: Potential and Constraints

Speaker: Mahmoud Al-Jafari, Al-Quds University at Jerusalem, Palestine

16:30 – 17:00 - Contact Break

Foyer

17:00-17:30 - Gender Differences in Unemployment Rates in the MENA Region

Speaker: Nader Kabbani, American University in Beirut, Lebanon

17:30-18:00 - The New Demography of MENA: Underlying Reasons and Economic Implications

Speaker: Tarik Yousef, Georgetown University, USA

Macroeconomic Management

18:00-18:30 - Evaluation des Performances des Programmes de Mise a Niveau Poursuivis dans les Pays du Sud de la Mediterranee

Speaker: Sami Bennaceur, Tunisia

18:30-19:00 - Monetary Policy and Inflation Control

Speakers: Mongi Boughzala, Faculty of Law & Economics & Political Studies, Tunisia

Speaker: Adel Boughrara, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia

19:00 – 20:00 - GDN Focus Group Discussion

Parallel Meetings

World Development Report 2006

Equity and Development

Laylaty 2

15:00 – 17:30

The WDR 2006 on Equity and Development, published in September 2006, argues that in the long run the pursuit of equity and the pursuit of economic prosperity are complementary.

Parallel Meetings

Advisory Committee

(Closed Meeting)

Nefertary 2

15:00 – 18:00

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Monday 19 December 2005

08:00 – 09:00	Registration		
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Ceremony		
	Farhaty Ballroom		
	- Samir Radwan, <i>Managing Director, ERF</i>		
	Keynote Speakers:		
	- H.E. Abdelatif Al-Hamad, <i>Director General and Chairman, AFESD</i>		
	Statement of H.E. the Prime Minister		
	- H.E. Eng. Rashid M. Rashid, <i>Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry, Egypt</i>		
	- H.E. Mahmoud Mohieldin, <i>Minister of Investment, Egypt</i>		
09:30 – 11:00	Plenary Session: Institutionalizing Reform		
	Farhaty Ballroom		
	Chair: H.E. Mahmoud Mohieldin, <i>Minister of Investment, Egypt</i>		
	Speakers:		
	- M. Shafik Gabr, <i>Chairman & Managing Director, Artoc Group For Investment & Development</i>		
	- Eddy Lee, <i>Senior Advisor, International Institute for Labor Studies, ILO</i>		
11:00 – 11:30	Contact Break		
	Foyer		
11:30 – 13:00	Plenary Session: Institutionalizing Reform – (Continued)		
	Farhaty Ballroom		
	Chair: H.E. Mahmoud Mohieldin, <i>Minister of Investment, Egypt</i>		
	Speakers:		
	- Ibrahim El Badawi, <i>Lead Economist, Development Economics Research Group, WB</i>		
	- Raed Safadi, <i>Head of Trade Policy Dialogue Division, The Trade Directorate, OECD</i>		
	- Mustapha Nabli, <i>Chief Economist & Sector Director, Economic Management, MENA Region, WB</i>		
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch		
	Nile Expo		
15:00 – 16:30	Parallel Sessions		
MSE Final Conference	Finance	Labor Markets	
Laylaty 1	Farhaty 1	Farhaty 2	
Session 6: Wrap up	Chair: Sultan Abou Ali	Chair: Ali Abdel Gadir Ali	
Chair: Samir Radwan, <i>ERF</i>	<i>The efficiency of foreign and domestic banks in MENA region: evidence on economies of scale and scope</i>	<i>A Cohort analysis of consumption and earnings in Iran: 1984-2002</i>	
15:00 – 15:30	By: Ibrahim Saif and Hadeel Yaseen	By: Marenglen Marku and Djavad Salehi-Isfahani	
Program Director	Discussant: Mahmoud Haddad	Discussant: Ragui Assaad	
Nader Fergany, <i>Almishkat</i>			
15:30-15:50	By: Ihsan Isik, Lokman Gunduz and Mohammed Omran	By: Sami Bibi	
Donor Community Response	<i>Impacts of organizational forms, stock performance and foreign ownership on bank efficiency in Jordan: a panel study approach</i>	<i>When is economic growth pro-poor? evidence from Tunisia</i>	
Eglal Rached, <i>IDRC</i>	Discussant: Mine Cinar	Discussant: Mongi Boughzala	
15:50-16:10			
Int'l Organizations Response			
Loretta de Luca, <i>ILO Sub-regional Office for North Africa, Egypt</i>			
16:10-16:30			
Floor Discussion			
16:30-17:00			
Concluding Remarks			
Samir Radwan, <i>ERF</i>			
16:30 – 17:00	Contact Break		
	Foyer		
17:00 – 18:30	Research Fellows Meeting		
	Akhnaton 1		
20:30	Welcome Dinner: Farhaty Ballroom		

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Monday 19 December 2005

Opening Ceremony
Farhaty Ballroom

Plenary Session
Farhaty Ballroom

This session aims to build on previous ERF research to address the issue of the role of institutions in affecting economic and social change and making reform last. This subject is highly demanded by researchers and policy makers in the MENA region and novel ideas are badly needed to guide the movement for reform.

Contact Break
Foyer
Plenary Session
Farhaty Ballroom

Lunch
Nile Expo

Macroeconomics	Parallel Sessions Sectoral	Trade
Farhaty 3	Akhnaton 1	Akhnaton 2
Chair: Mouna Cherkaoui <i>Human capital and economic growth in Morocco</i>	Chair: Zeki Fattah <i>Agriculture productivity and technological gap between MENA region and some European countries</i>	Chair: Hana Kheir El Din <i>Are there shortfalls in MENA trade? If so, what are their resources and what should be done about them?</i>
By: Younes Zouhar	By: Mohamed Ben Jemaa and Mohamed Adel Dhif	By: Rania Miniesy and Jeffrey Nugent
Discussant: Adel Boughrara	Discussant: Samir Makary	Discussant: Adel Beshai
<i>Contribution des chocs Internes et externes aux fluctuations macroeconomiques au Maroc: une approche structurelle des VAR</i>	<i>Sustainable groundwater management</i>	<i>Saudi Arabia long road to WTO membership: The potential payoffs</i>
By: Mustapha Ziky	By: Mounir Belloumi and Mohamed Salah Matoussi	By: Mohamad Abdelbasset Chemingui and Raed Safadi
Discussant: Brahim Mansouri	Discussant: Riad Ben Jelili	Discussant: Lahcen Achy

Contact Break
Foyer

Research Fellows Meeting

Welcome Dinner – Farhaty Ballroom

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Tuesday 20 December 2005

10:00 – 16:00	Board of Trustees Meeting Nefertary 2 (Closed meeting)	
09:00 - 12:00	Parallel Sessions	
	Finance	Labor Markets
	Farhaty 1	Farhaty 2
09:00 – 09:45	Chair: Medhat Hassanein <i>A unified risk assessment of commercial banks in the MENA region</i> By: Sam Hakim and Simon Neaime Discussant: Sule Ozler	Chair: Heba Handoussa <i>Labor force participation, employment, and returns to education in Syria</i> By: Henrik Huitfeldt and Nader Kabbani Discussant: Serdar Sayan
09:45 – 10:30	<i>Measuring the degree of central bank independence in Egypt</i> By: Ahmed Kamaly and Noha Farrag Discussant: Sahar Nasr	<i>Wage inequality by education and gender in MENA: contrasting the Egyptian and Moroccan experiences in the 1990s</i> By: Mona Said and Fatma El-Hamidi Discussant: Aysit Tansel
10:30 – 11:00	Contact Break Foyer	
11:00 – 11:45	<i>The effects of exchange rate fluctuations on economic activity in Turkey</i> By: Magda Kandil, Hakan Berument, Nazire Nergiz Dincer Discussant: Osman Suliman	<i>Population aging, labor mobility & economic growth: evidence from MENA and the developed world</i> By: Mehmet Serkan Tosun Discussant: Jackline Wahba
12:00: 13:30	Parallel Sessions	
	Finance	Labor Markets
	Farhaty 1	Farhaty 2
	Chair: Kabir Hassan Discussions of Background Papers	Chair: Mahmoud El-Jafari Discussions of Background Papers
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch Nile Expo	
15:00 - 17:00	Session in memoriam of ERF affiliates Farhaty Ballroom Chair: - Raed Safadi Speakers: - Nader Fergany, appreciation statement in the memory of Mervat Badawi - Serdar Sayan, appreciation statement in the memory of Merih Celasun - Taher Kanaan, appreciation statement in the memory of Yousef Sayegh - Subidey Togan, appreciation statement in the memory of Murat Sertel	
17:00	Free social activity - networking	

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Tuesday 20 December 2005



Macroeconomics	Parallel Sessions Sectoral	Trade
Farhaty 3	Akhnaton 1	Akhnaton 2
Chair: Ibrahim El Badawi <i>Estimating economic growth in the Middle East since 1820</i>	Chair: Atif Kubursi <i>Enhancing agricultural water productivity in MENA countries through adoption of improved irrigation technology under production risk</i>	Chair: H.E. Abdullah Al Kuwaiz <i>Impact of foreign direct investment and trade on economic growth</i>
By: Sevket Pamuk	By: Gholam Reza Soltani and Mohamed Bakhshoodeh	By: Alireza Karbasi, Ebrahim Mohamadi and Samane Ghofrani
Discussant: Subidey Togan	Discussant: Sergio Alessandrini	Discussant: Erinc Yeldan
<i>Alternative approaches to forecasting inflation in the case of Egypt</i>	<i>Measuring the net benefits of inbound tourism growth: The case of coastal and natural tourism in the MENA region</i>	<i>Tax incentives and foreign direct investment in the MENA region</i>
By: Diaa Noureldin	By: Mondher Sahli and Jean-Jacques Nowak	By: Steve Onyeiwu and Hemanta Shrestha
Discussant: Adam Al-Haraika	Discussant: Mohamed Matoussi	Discussant: Mohamed Boussetta

**Contact Break
Foyer**

<i>Monetary policy coordination and the prospects of a monetary union between GCC countries</i>	<i>A computable general equilibrium model to study the impact of the information and communications technology (ICT) on the economy of Egypt</i>
By: Simon Neaime	By: A. Abutaleb and D. Gamal
Discussant: Majed Al-Moneef	Discussant: Nagla Rizk

Macroeconomics	Parallel Sessions Sectoral	Trade
Farhaty 3	Akhnaton 1	Akhnaton 2
Chair: Hadi Esfahani	Chair: Zeki Fattah	Chair: Subidey Togan
Discussions of Background Papers	Discussions of Background Papers	Discussions of Background Papers

**Lunch
Nile Expo**

**Session in memoriam of ERF affiliates
Farhaty Ballroom**

Free social activity - networking

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Wednesday 21 December 2005

09:30 – 13:30	Plenary Session: Exchange Rate regimes, Inflation Targeting and Lessons to Emerging Economies of the MENA region Farhaty Ballroom Chair: Samir Radwan, <i>Economic Research Forum</i> Speakers: Klaus Schmidt-Hebbel, <i>Central Bank of Chile</i> John Williamson, <i>Institute for International Economics, USA</i> Response from the Region: Ibrahim El Badawi, <i>Development Economics Research Group, WB</i> Bassem Kamar, <i>International University of Monaco</i> Rania Al Mashat, <i>Central Bank of Egypt</i>	
11:00 – 11:30	Contact Break Foyer	
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch Nile Expo	
15:00 – 16:30	Parallel Sessions	
	Finance	Labor Markets
	Farhaty 1	Farhaty 2
15:00 – 15:45	Chair: Hasan Ersel <i>Performance of Islamic mutual funds</i> By: Said Elfakahani and Kabir Hassan Discussant: Badr El-Din Ibrahim	Chair: Laila Al Khawaga <i>A model for the Palestinian labor markets and wage earnings</i> By: Mahmoud A.T. Elkhafif and Yousef S. Daoud Discussant: Abdel Fattah Abou Shokor
15:45 – 16:30	<i>The cost, profit and x-efficiency of Islamic banks</i> By: M. Kabir Hassan Discussant: Mahmoud El Gamal	<i>The effects of structural adjustment on youth unemployment in Egypt</i> By: Fatma El-Hamidi and Jackline Wahba Discussant: Mohaya Zeitoun
16:30 – 17:00	Contact Break Foyer	
17:00 – 18:00	Launch of new FEMISE Farhaty Ballroom Chair: Samiha Fawzy, <i>Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry, Egypt</i> Speakers: Samir Radwan, <i>Managing Director, ERF</i> Jean Louis Reiffers, <i>President of Scientific Council, Institut de la Méditerranée</i>	
18:00 – 19:00	Closing session Farhaty Ballroom Chair: Samir Radwan - Message from GDN - Lyn Squire, <i>Director, GDN</i> - Prize Ceremony for the best policy oriented papers - Conference Conclusion	

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Wednesday 21 December 2005

Plenary Session

Farhaty Ballroom

Foyer

Lunch

Nile Expo

**Parallel Sessions
Sectoral**

Macroeconomics

Farhaty 3

Chair: Fadle Naquib

A macroeconomic general equilibrium model for Turkey: disinflation, fiscal austerity and labor markets

By: Cagatay Telli, Ebru Voyvoda, Erinc Yeldan

Discussant:
Marwan Kardoosh

Social and economic determinants of Turkish voter choice in the 1995 parliamentary election

By: Ali Akarca and Aysit Tansel

Discussant:
Hassan Ali

Akhnaton 1

Chair: Noura Al Youssef

Economic development, trade & environmental quality: is pollution being shifted to developing countries?

By: Savas Alpaly and Mehmet Caner

Discussant:
Tarek Selim

Trade

Akhnaton 2

Chair: Gamal Bayoumi

EU actual and potential trade with Mediterranean and central and eastern European countries: a gravity study

By: Anna Ferragina, Giorgia Giovannetti & Francesco Pastore

Discussant:
Ahmed Ghoneim

Contact Break

Foyer

Launch of new FEMISE

Farhaty Ballroom

Closing Session

Farhaty Ballroom