

ERF's Fourth annual Conference
Regional Trade, Finance, and Labor Markets in Transition
Beirut, September 7-9, 1997

Sunday, September 7, 1997 9:30-10:00 **Registration** 10:00-10:30 **Opening Session**

Heba Handoussa ERF Trade Managing Director	Samir Makdisi Chair ERF Board of Trustees	Yassin Jabir Minister of Economy and of Lebanon
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(Issam Fares Hall- American University of

Beirut) 10:30-10:45 **Coffee Break (15 minutes)** 10:45-12:30

Morning Session (Plenary)

**Progress on ERF's Research Themes of Trade, Finance, and Labor:
Overview and Outlook for Future Research Activities**

(Issam Fares Hall- American University of Beirut)

- Hasan Ersel -Radwan Shaban -Raed Safadi 12:30- 1:30 **Lunch**

Break

1:30-4:30 **Afternoon Session (three parallel sessions on Trade (T), Finance (F), and Labor (L)):**

Session T1: Trade Liberalization and the Global Environment *Chair*
Samir Makdisi

Murat Sertel & Benan Zeki Orbay
"Is Free Trade Welfare Improving?"
-Discussants: Subidey Togan Jamal Zarrouk

- Ali Bayar, P.M. Boer, B. Hobijin, C. Martinez & T. Pamukcu
*"Did Trade Liberalization Induce A Structural Break In Imports of
Manufactures in Turkey?"*
-Discussants: Hanaa Kheir-El-Din Ziya Onis

Session F1 : Financial Sector and Monetary Policy
Chair- Mutaheer Al-Saidi

-Magda Kandil
*"On the Design and Effects of Monetary Policy in the Middle
East"* -Discussants: Simon Neaime Hasan
Ersel

- Mohamed Chaffai & Michel Dietsch
*"Productive Efficiency Performance of Tunisian and Moroccan Banks:
An Econometric Analysis Using Panel Data "* -Discussants:Hisham
Bisat Rusdu Saracoglu

Session L1 : Labor Markets in the Process of Transition Chair:Ahmed Galal

- Ragui Assaad

"Explaining Informality: The Determinants of Compliance with Labor Market Regulations and Firm in Egypt"

-Discussants:Mahmoud Abdel Fadil Djavad Salehi Isfahani

- Mongi Boughzala

"Impact of the EU-Tunisia FTA on the Labor Markets" -

Discussants:Ishac Diwan Radwan Shaban

3:00-3:15 **Coffee Break (15 minutes)**

Monday September 8, 1997

9:30-12:30 **Morning Session (three parallel sessions) ERF Board of Trustees Meeting**

Session T2 : Trade, Exchange Rate and Competitiveness Chair.:Najib Harabi

-Raed Safadi

"Trade Issue in Globalising World"

-Discussants:Ahmet Halis Akder Yousuf J. Mohamed

-Ibrahim El-Badawi

" Real Exchange Rates Policy and Export Performance in Three Arab Countries " -

Discussants:Ghazi Sirhan Atif Kubrusi

Session F2: Corporate Behavior and the Financial Sector Chair.George Corm

- Izak Atiyas & Murat Yulek

"Corporate Behavior During A Fiscal-Financial Crisis: The Experience of Turkey in 1994

-Discussants:Saad Andary Wafik Grais

Hasan Ersel & Guven Sak

Dynamics of Corporate Sector Behaviour Under Uncertainty:" -

Discussants: Firouzeh Khaiatbari Sule Ozler

Session L2: Labor Markets and Human Resource Development Chair: Yusif Sayigh

Zafiris Tzannatos & Victor Billeh

" Vocational Education and Training in Jordan: Performance. Issues and Prospects"

-Discussants:Abdel Razak Al-Faris Mohamed Amerah

- Aysit Tansel
" Informal Sector Earnings Determination in Turkey"
-Discussants:Ali Bayar Mohamed H. Abdullah

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break (15 minutes)

12:30-1:30 Lunch Break

1:30-4:30 *Afternoon Session (Parallel Session):*

Session T3: Impact of Trade Liberalization on Agriculture *Chair: Ali Attiga*

-Mahmoud EI-Jafari
"The Expected Impact of the Bilateral Economic Agreements Between Palestine, Jordan & Israel on the Palestinian Agricultural Sector" -Discussants:Saeed Nouri-Naini Tarik Moursi

- Raouf Khouzam
"*Globalization, Virtual Water, Trade, in MENA*"
-Discussants: Ibrahim El-Badawi Ghazi Yousef

Session F3 : Stock Markets and Islamic Finance *Chair. Taher Kanan*

-Ali Darrat & Sam Hakim

"Price Linkages, Efficiency. and Integration of Emerging Stock Markets in the Middle East "

-Discussants:Mahmoud Mohieldin Yousef Al Ebraheem

- Abdel-Hameed Bashir
"*Growth and Performance of Islamic Banks: Evidence From Two Sudanese Banks*"
-Discussants:Magda Kandil Abdel Mahmoud Abdel Rahman

Session L 3 : Women in the Labor Markets

Chair.Radwan Shaban

- Insan Tunali
"*To Work or not to Work: An Examination of Female Labor Force Participation Rates in Urban Turkey*"

-Discussants: Ragui Assaad Abdel Fattah Abu-Shokor

- Djavad Salehi-Isfahani
"*Fertility, Education and Household Resources in Iran: 1987-1992*" -
Discussants:Aysit Tansel Heba El-Laithy

3:00-3:15 **Coffee Break (15 minutes)**

Tuesday . September 9, 1997

9:30-11:30 *Wrap-up Session (Plenary)*

- *Summary of each Parallel session and direction for future research*

delivered by two of the participants on each of the three themes *11:30-12:30* **ERF**

Research Fellows Meeting