

Tentative Agenda
ERF's Sixth Annual Conference
Regional Trade, Finance, and Labor Markets
Marriott Hotel, Cairo, 28-31 October 1999

Thursday, October 28, 1999

8:15-8:45 **Registration**

8:45-9:00 **Opening Session**

Samir Makdisi
Board Chairman of ERF

9:00-9:45 **Morning Session (Plenary)**

Yousef Boutros Ghali*
Minister of Economy
Egypt

Medhat Hassanain*
Minister of Finance
Egypt

Lyn Squire*
World Bank

Heba Handoussa
Managing Director, ERF

9:45- **Morning Session (ERF parallel sessions on Trade,
Finance, & Labor)**

Please see attached GRP agenda for parallel GRP sessions

Session Trade (1):

Chair: Najib Harabi

-Sergio Alessandrini & L. Resmini

"The Determinants of FDI: A Comparative Analysis of EU FDI Flows into the CEECs"

- Discussants: Samiha Fawzy
Ali Bayar

- C. Martinez-Mongay & P. Buigues

"EU-CEECs Free Trade Agreements and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: Are there any Domino Effects?"

- Discussants: Raed Safadi
Jean Louis Reiffers

Session Finance (1):

Chair: Mustapha Nabli

-Jeffrey Nugent, Mohamed Bechri & Tijani Najah

"Anatomy of an Institutional Failure: Tunisia's Lending Program to SME's"

- Discussants: Murat Sertel
Mouna Cherkaoui

-Ali Darrat & Yousif K. Al-Yousif

"Budget Balance through Spending Cuts or Tax Adjustments: A Case Study of Two MENA Countries"

- Discussants: Hadi Salehi Esfahani
Bahir Atlam

*** To be Confirmed**

Session Labor (1):

Chair: Linda Martin

- Djavad Salehi -Isfahani & Ajay Tandon
"Intertemporal Substitution and Fertility Dynamics in Iran"

- Discussants: Farzaneh Roudi
Aysit Tansel

- Amir Mehryar, Mohamed Tabibian & Rafik Gholipur
"Correlates and Determinants of Fertility Decline in Iran, 1986-1996: A District Level Analysis"

- Discussants: Ragui Assaad
Massoud Karshenas

1:30- 2:30 **Lunch Break**

2:30- 4:00 **Afternoon Session (ERF parallel sessions on Trade, Finance, & Labor)**

Please see attached GRP agenda for parallel GRP sessions

Session Trade (2):

Chair: Raed Safadi

- Ahmed Kamaly & Perrihan Al-Riffai
"Can MENA Region Catch the BOP Virus"

- Discussants: Hanaa Kheir-El-Din
Hamid Mohtadi

Session Finance (2):

Chair:

- Omer Benkato, Nabeel Al-Loughani & Mahmoud Haddad
"Coping with the Risk of Interest Rate Fluctuation: Return to Financial Intermediaries from Naive and Optimal Strategies: The Case of Kuwait Banks"

- Discussants: Hasan Ersel

Session Labor (2):

Chair: T. Paul Shultz

- Mongi Boughzala
"Returns to Vocational Training in Tunisia"

- Discussants: Insan Tunali
Abdel Fattah Abou Shokor

4:00-4:15 **Coffee Break (15 minutes)**

4:15-5:15 Launching of World Bank Report, "Entering the 21st Century"

5:15-6:15 **ERF Research Fellows Meeting**

Friday, October 29, 1999

9:30- **Morning Session (ERF parallel sessions on Trade, Finance, & Labor)**

Please see attached GRP agenda for parallel GRP sessions

Session Trade (3):

Chair: Subidey Togan

- Patricia Augier & Michael Gasiorek

"The Effect of Trade Liberalization between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean"

- Discussants: Jawad Anani
Mohamed Lahouel

- Rim Chatti

"An AGE Assessment of FTA Between Tunisia and the EU under Products and Labor Markets Imperfections"

- Discussants: Jamel Zarrouk
Hashem Pesaran

Session Finance (3):

Chair: Majid Al-Moneef

- Mahmoud El Gamal & Amer Bisat

"Investment and Growth in Egypt: 1970-1997 Lessons from the Past and Guidelines for the Future"

- Discussants: Faika El Refai
Sam Hakim

- Tarek Selim

"Testing the Structural Empirical Dynamics of the Economic Growth Path of Egypt"

- Discussants: Omer Benkato
Ahmed Galal

Session Labor (3):

Chair: Massoud Karshenas

- Ali Abdel Gader Ali & Ibrahim El Badawi

"The Dynamics of Growth, Inequality and Poverty in MENA Region: Some Empirical Results"

- Discussants: Samir Radwan
Basim Makhool

- Mohamed Salah Matoussi & Mohamed Ayadi

"Poverty Analysis in Tunisia: Spatial and Temporal Comparison Using Household Surveys"

- Discussants: Mongi Boughzala
Ali Abdel Gader Ali

11:30-12:00 **Coffee Break (15 minutes)**

1:30- 2:30 **Lunch Break**

2:30- *Afternoon Session (ERF parallel sessions on Trade, Finance, & Labor)*

Please see attached GRP agenda for parallel GRP sessions

Session Trade (4):

Chair: Jean-Louis Reiffers

- Ulrich Bartsch & Benito Muller

"The Macro-Economic Impact of the Kyoto Protocol in the Middle East"

- Discussants: Subidey Togan
Sergio Alessandirini

Session Finance (4) :

Chair:

- Humayon Dar & John Presely

"Lack of Profit Loss Sharing in Islamic Banking: Management and Control Imbalances"

- Discussants: Ali Darrat
Mahmoud El Gamal

Session Labor (4):

Chair:

-Sami Bibi

"Food Subsidies or Regional Targeting: What is Better for Poverty Alleviation in Tunisia?"

- Discussants: Merih Celasun
Heba El Laithy

8:00 **Presentation by Joseph Stiglitz (Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, World Bank) & Dinner hosted by ERF at Le Pacha Floating Restaurant**

Saturday, October 30, 1999

9:00-1:00 **ERF Board of Trustees Meeting**

9:00- *Morning Session (ERF parallel sessions on Trade, Finance, & Labor)*

Session Trade (5):

Chair: Adel Beshai

- Agnes Benassy-Quere, L. Fontagne & A. Lahrach-Revil
"Exchange Rate Regime and FDI in MENA Countries"

- Discussants: Sultan Abou Ali
Khalid Sekkat

- C. Emre Alper & Refik Erzan

"The Equilibrium Real Exchange Rate: An Application to the Middle East "

- Discussants: Ibrahim El Badawi

Session Finance (5:)

Chair: Jawad Anani

- Magda Kandil

“Exchange Rate Fluctuations and Economic Activity: Theory and Evidence from A Sample of MENA Countries”

- Discussants: Ahmed Jalali-Naini
Sulayman Ozmucur

- Fadle Naqib

“The Economics of Currency Boards: The Case of the Palestinian Economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip”

- Discussants: Simon Neaim
Mahmoud Mohieldin

Session Labor (5):

Chair: Insan Tunali

-Donna K. Flynn

“Reconceptualizing the Female Labor Force in Jordan: Accounting for the Informal Sector”

- Discussants: Meine Pieter van Dijk
Valentine Moghadam

- Erol Taymaz

“Trade Liberalization and Employment Generation: The Experience of Turkey in the 1980s”

- Discussants: Ishac Diwan
Mahmoud El Jafari

1:30-2:30 **Lunch Break**

2:30- **Afternoon Session (Progress on Research Projects)**

Chair: Ishac Diwan

- Sulayman Ozmucure

“Predictive Models of Economic & Financial Crisis”

- Hadi Salehi Esfahani

“Institution, Budgetary Procedures & Fiscal Performance in MENA Countries”

4:00- **ERF Donor Meeting**

5:00 **Light & Sound Show at the Pyramids, followed by dinner at Andrea Pyramids Garden Restaurant**

Sunday, October 31, 1999

9:00- ***Morning Session (Progress on Research Projects)***

Chair: Lyn Squire

- Ragui Assaad, Jackline Wahba, Mona Said & Abda El Mahdi
“*Labor Markets in Egypt*”

- Insan Tunali, Djavad Salehi-Isfahani, & Ragui Assaad
“*Female Labor Supply in Egypt, Iran, & Turkey*”

- Heba Nassar
“*Socio Economic Conditions of Work in Greater Cairo: Gender Differences & Formal Informal Comparison*”

- Hamid Mohtadi
“*Constructing Databank on Capital Stock & Total Factor Productivity at 4-Digit ISIC Code in Selected MENA Countries*”

1:30-2:30 **Lunch Break**

2:30-4:00 ***Afternoon Session (Progress on Research Projects)***

Chair: Hanaa Kheir-El-Din

- Raouf Khozam
“*Economics of Wastewater (Study Case: The Arab Region)*”

- Ahmed Aboutaled & Fatma Lajeri-Chaherli
“*Forecasting Asset Returns in Some MENA Countries & its Impact on Privatization*”

5:00- **Closing Session**