

DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ERF 21st ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 20-22, 2015 | Gammarth, Tunisia

2015

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 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 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 Middle East economists, where new ideas are born, nourished and promoted; where the community of researchers meets; and where excellence is celebrated. This year's conference will be held in Tunisia, March 20-22, 2015, in collaboration with the Tunisian Economic Association. The main theme of the plenary sessions is "Democracy and Economic Development."

Besides the plenary sessions, which will feature world renowned economists, political scientists and policy makers, there will be six parallel sessions daily. Parallel sessions will see the presentation of more than 40 papers under the themes of Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, International Economics, Finance, Labor and Human Development and Institutional Economics. In addition, there will be two special sessions showcasing the work by ERF on the themes of "Transition in the Arab World" and "Inequality in the Arab World." 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 Award.

Conference Theme

The choice of "**Democracy and Economic Development**" as the main theme of the conference is prompted by two observations: First, several countries in the region are engaged in a messy democratization process; Second, the causal relationship between democracy and economic development (and reverse causation) is anything but clear and conclusive.

To be sure, democracy is important in its own right. In addition, as former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill once famously remarked, "... [It] is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." We also know that all rich and advanced countries are democracies. The problem is that the transition to democracy is associated with high levels of uncertainty, economic difficulties and rising popular demands. Failing to manage this transition can be costly and may jeopardize the transition process altogether. Beyond the transition, both theory and empirical evidence are inconclusive when it comes to the impact of democracy on economic growth and distribution, on the one hand, and the impact of growth and distribution on democracy, on the other. Moreover, democracy is not monolithic and has different faces (especially in terms of design and practice), and thus may have varying repercussions on policymaking and development. In this context, the objectives of the three plenary sessions of this conference are to address the debates surrounding the link between democracy and development, the possible impact of different forms of democracy on development and how to best navigate the transition towards democracy in the Arab world.

Plenary Session 1: The Relationship between Democracy and Development

To disentangle the relationship between democracy and economic development, the speakers in this session will adopt a medium to long term perspective, addressing such questions as: Do countries become democratic when their levels of income reach a certain level, or does democracy come about as a result of historical events or critical junctures? What is the role of inequality and class structure in bringing about more democratic societies? Viewed from the opposite perspective, what is the impact of democracy on development, and does it always deliver acceptable socio-economic outcomes? Are there economic and social circumstances, such as levels of development or conflicts, where a dictatorship may outperform a democratic regime?

With respect to the Arab countries, the speakers could further address questions such as: Why did the region suffer from a “democratic deficit” for a long time? To what extent did oil, conflicts, political Islam, and colonialism contribute to this outcome? What prompted the recent uprisings? Why did they occur in some countries, but not in others? And how serious is the ensuing polarization for prospects of democracy?

Plenary Session 2: Forms of Democracy and Development

This session starts from the observation that democracy comes in many forms, apparently with different results in terms of economic growth, equity and overall welfare. The question is what makes one form of democracy more successful than another? To explore this question, the speakers will address such questions as: To what extent can the variations in economic outcomes be attributed to the way democratic institutions are designed and the manner in which they behave, especially in terms of checks and balances, transparency, accountability and broad political inclusion? Which features of democratic institutions are most relevant and critical for achieving positive developmental outcomes? Are there forms of democracy, such as presidential or parliamentary; features of electoral processes; and/or systems of political finance that are empirically found to be better than others?

Turning to the Arab countries, what are the implications of the above for the Arab countries in transition? In particular, what should these countries do to create good democratic systems and what are the pitfalls they should avoid?

Plenary Session 3: Navigating the Transition to Democracy

Informed by the findings of the previous plenary sessions, this session will more broadly examine the experiences of countries that went through democratic transitions to draw lessons for the Arab countries currently navigating their own transitions. To this end, the speakers will address such questions as: Is there a pattern for successful political and economic transitions or is the process country specific? How long does it take to achieve political and economic stability and at what cost? What prevents countries in transition from sliding back into undemocratic governance? Finally, how were social mass movements transformed into a political power base for new regimes?

In addition to the above questions, the speakers may also deal with the role of religion and the military in transition processes. Finally, they may speculate about what can be expected going forward.

Special Events and Meetings

1. Social Drivers of Political Change in the Arab World
2. Inequality in the Arab World
3. Preconference Closed Meetings
4. Research Fellows Meeting
5. Board of Trustees Meeting
6. Closing and Award Ceremony of the Best Paper Award

GENERAL INFORMATION

Conference Venue

- Golden Tulip Carthage Tunis Hotel | Avenue de la Promenade, B.P. 606 - 2078 | La Marsa | Tunis, Tunisia | Tel: +216 71 91 3000 | Fax: +216 71 91 3913

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 Tunis, Meet and Assist services will be provided by a representative from the hotel. The representative will be holding an ERF sign and will be waiting in front of the "Office National du Tourisme Tunisien (ONTT)".
- In case you miss your airport pickup, or you don't find the hotel representative, please contact **Ms. Dhouha Ayed: +216 242 71926**.
- Transportation from the airport to the hotel will be provided to all participants (30 minute-trip).
- Those who need to collect their ticket reimbursement and authors who need to sign their contracts kindly go to Tanit Room.
- For departure, please check out and be ready three hours before your flights departure time.
- The Tunisian Government has issued a **departure tax** of 30TD to be paid at the airport. They only accept cash. Please make sure to have this amount for your departure. This tax is not covered by ERF.

Hotel Accommodation

- Participants will be residing at: Golden Tulip Carthage Tunis Hotel | Avenue de la Promenade, B.P. 606 - 2078 | La Marsa | Tunis, Tunisia | Tel: +216 71 91 3000 | Fax: +216 71 91 3913
- 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**.
- There will be a registration desk in the lobby with an ERF sign. Please pass by to receive your conference package.
- Kindly note that ERF does not cover expenses related to laundry, phone calls (local and international), room service, use of the mini-bar, alcoholic beverages.
- Wi-Fi connection is available free of charge.

Meals

- Group lunches will be served at the Golden Tulip Hotel for participants from March 20 – 22, and are covered by ERF.
- For participants arriving on March 19 and/or departing on March 23, please have your meals at the **El Montazah** restaurant.
- The Welcome Dinner will take place on March 20 at 8:30 pm at the **Neptune Pool**.
- You are invited to attend a cultural event that will take place on March 22 at 7:30 pm at the **Ennejma Ezzahra**. Buses will be ready at the hotel entrance at 6:30 pm.

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

19 March

PARALLEL SESSIONS (CLOSED MEETINGS)

09:00 – 13:00

ERF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Hadrumete Hall

09:00 – 12:00

TEAM MEETING ON THE USE OF HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

El Jem Board Room

10:00 – 14:00

BOOK AUTHORS' MEETING: TUNISIAN LABOR MARKET PANEL SURVEY (TLMPS)

Hannibal Hall

14:00 – 16:00

LUNCH BREAK

16:00 – 18:00

THEMATIC LEADERS MEETING

El Jem Board Room

18:00 – 19:30

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

El Jem Board Room

DAY ONE

8:30 – 9:30 REGISTRATION | Carthage Ballroom Foyer

9:30 – 12:00 OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION 1: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT | Carthage Ballroom

Chairperson: *Abdlatif Al-Hamad* (Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and ERF)

Opening Remarks: *Ahmed Galal* (Economic Research Forum)

Welcome Remarks: *Hedi Larbi* (Tunisian Economic Association)

Speakers: *Melani Cammett* (Harvard University)
Ibrahim Elbadawi (Dubai Economic Council and ERF)
Adam Przeworski (New York University)

12:00 – 14:00 FRIDAY PRAYERS AND LUNCH

14:00 – 15:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS

Political Connections, Access to Finance and Firm Performance

Carthage Ballroom

Chairperson: *Hafez Ghanem*

Speakers:
Umut Gündüz

Political Connections, Firm Performance and Resilience: An Econometric Approach

Hanan Morsy and Hoda Youssef

Access to Finance—Mind the Gender Gap

Discussant:
Hadi Esfahani

FINANCE

Financial Assets in the GCC

Dougga Hall
(Third Floor)

Chairperson: *Hassan Aly*

Speakers:
Walid Mensi, Shawkat Hammoudeh, Juan Carlos Reboredo, and Duc Khuong Nguyen

Hedge and Safe Haven Gold and Other Assets in GCC Markets

Tahar Tayachi, Shawkat Hammoudeh, and Ahmed Khalifa

Global Factors and GCC Stock Market Integration Using The Regime Switching, R-Vine Copula Approach

Discussant:
Mahmoud Haddad

MACROECONOMICS

Arab Spring Economies

Amilcar Hall
(Third Floor)

Chairperson: *Samir Makdisi*

Speakers:
Hany Abdel-Latif, Tapas Mishra and Anita V. Staneva

Arab countries between Winter and Spring: Where Democracy Shock Goes Next!

David Cobham and Abdallah Zouache

Economic Features of the Arab Spring

Discussant:
Kamiar Mohaddes

15:30 – 16:00 COFFEE BREAK

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Wars, Informality and Trade

Hadrumete Hall
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Omneia Helmy*Speakers:
*Fida Karam and Chahir Zaki*How Did Wars Dampen Trade in the
MENA Region?

*Sami Bensassi, Anne Brockmeyer,
Matthieu Pellerin and Gael
Raballand*Algeria–Mali Trade:
The Normality of InformalityDiscussant:
*Raed Safadi***LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Determinants of Health Outcomes

Hannibal Hall
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Maha Rabbat*Speakers:
*Aysit Tansel and Hanife Deniz
Karaoglan*Relationship between Health
and Education in Turkey: An
Instrumental Variable Approach

*Caroline Krafft*The Determinants of Child Health
Disparities in JordanDiscussant:
*Massoud Karshenas***MICROECONOMICS**

Growth and Productivity

El Jem Boardroom
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Izak Atiyas*Speakers:
*Hanan Morsy, Antoine Levy
and Clara Sanchez*Growing Without Changing: A
Tale of Egypt's Weak Productivity
Growth

*Ali Chebil, Aymen Frija
and Rached Alyani*Measurement of Total Factor
Productivity and Its Determinants:
Case of Wheat Sector in TunisiaDiscussant:
Randall K. Filer

DAY ONE

16:00 – 17:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS New Research on Corruption Carthage Ballroom	FINANCE Stock Markets Dougga Hall (Third Floor)	MACROECONOMICS Political Instability and Economic Performance Amilcar Hall (Third Floor)
Chairperson: <i>Hala Abou-Ali</i> Speakers: <i>Houda Haffoudhi, Racem Mehdi and Gam Abdelkader</i> Mapping Democratic Transition	Chairperson: <i>Sultan Abou-Ali</i> Speakers: <i>Bedri Kamil Onur Taz</i> Wash Trades as a Stock Market Manipulation Tool	Chairperson: <i>Mustapha Nabli</i> Speakers: <i>Amr Hosny</i> Are We Sure about the Effects of the Egyptian Uprisings? A SURE Approach
<hr/> <i>May A. Attallah</i> The Economic Determinants of Political Islam: An Empirical Investigation of the Arab Spring in Egypt Discussant: <i>Ishac Diwan</i>	<hr/> <i>Hatem Salah and Marwa Souissi</i> Financial Stability and Macro Prudential Regulation: Policy Implication of Systemic Expected Shortfall Measure Discussant: <i>Mine Cinar</i>	<hr/> <i>Hossam Eldin Abdelkader</i> Political Instability, Uncertainty, Democracy, and Economic Growth in Egypt Discussant: <i>Ibrahim Elbadawi</i>

17:30 – 18:00 COFFEE BREAK

18:00 – 20:00 RESEARCH FELLOWS MEETING (CLOSED MEETING) | Amilcar Hall (Third Floor)

20:30 WELCOME DINNER | NEPTUNE POOL - GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Foreign Investors and Exporters

Hadrumete Hall
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Subidey Togan*

Speakers:

*Nergiz Dincer and Ayça Tekin-Koru*A League of Their Own: Services
Exporters*Ghada Tayem
and Diana Abu-Ghunmi*Characteristics of Foreign Investors
and Firm Productivity

Discussant:

*Khalid Sekkat***LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**Labor Supply: Youth and Rural
HouseholdsHannibal Hall
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Insan Tunali*

Speakers:

*Touhami Abdelkhalek
and Fouzia Ejjanou**Tests de Séparabilité dans les Décisions
des Ménages Agricoles**Imen Mouaddeb and Mohamed
Kriaa*Labor Market Participation and the
Impact of the Passage Into Profes-
sional Life Through an Introductory
Traineeship (SIVP1)

Discussant:

*Ragui Assaad***MICROECONOMICS**

Household Behavior

El Jem Boardroom
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Najib Harabi*

Speakers:

*Reham Rizk and Hala Abou-Ali*Determinants of Household
Expenditure on Children's Education*Yvonne Giesing and Almedina Music*Household Behavior under Political
Instability

Discussant:

Shantayanan Devarajan

DAY TWO

9:00 – 11:00 **PLENARY SESSION 2: FORMS OF DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT** | Carthage Ballroom

Chairperson: *Mouna Cherkaoui* (University of Mohamed V and ERF)

Speakers: *Tarek Masoud* (Harvard University)
Mustapha Nabli (Economic Research Forum)
Gerard Roland (University of California)

11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

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

11:30 – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

<p>INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Public Spending and Perception of Welfare</p> <p>Carthage Ballroom</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Ali Akarca</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Cem Başlevent and Hasan Kirmanoğlu</i></p> <p>A Multilevel Analysis of Individual Attitudes Toward Welfare State Responsibilities</p> <hr/> <p><i>Riadh Brini and Hatem Jemmali</i></p> <p>Efficiency in Public Spending, Governance, Political and Economic Policies</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Jeffrey Nugent</i></p>	<p>FINANCE Commercial and Islamic Banks</p> <p>Dougga Hall (Third Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Mahmoud Sami Nabi</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Canan Yildirim and Adnan Kasman</i></p> <p>Bank Market Power and Non-interest Income in Emerging Markets</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mohamed E. Chaffai</i></p> <p>Technical Efficiency and Stability to Shocks</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Wafik Grais</i></p>	<p>MACROECONOMICS Liberalization, Globalization, Oil Sanctions and Economic Consequences</p> <p>Amilcar Hall (Third Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Mongi Boughzala</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Kamiar Mohaddes and Mohammad H. Pesaran</i></p> <p>Oil Sanctions and the Global Economy: A Counterfactual Analysis</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mohamed Trabelsi and Mondher Cherif</i></p> <p>Capital Account Liberalization and Financial Deepening: Does the Private Sector Matter?</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Rania Al Mashat</i></p>
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13:00 – 14:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Regional Integration

Hadrumete Hall
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Mohamed Goaid*

Speakers:

Melise Jaud, Youssouf Kendrebeogo, and Marie-Ange Véganzonès-Varoudakis

Financial Vulnerability and Export Dynamics

Jamal Ibrahim Haidar and Farid Toubal

Linguistic Influences on Exporter Dynamics in Developing Countries

Discussant:

*Abla Abdel-Latif***LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Education and Labor Market Outcomes

Hannibal Hall
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Ali Abdel Gadir Ali*

Speakers:

Nadir Altinok and Abdurrahman Aydemir

The Unfolding of Gender Gap in Education

Ahmed Elsayed and Olivier Marie

Education and Labour Market Outcomes: Evidence from a Reduction in Years of Compulsory Schooling in Egypt

Discussant:

*Meltem Dayioglu-Tayfur***MICROECONOMICS**

Telecommunications

El Jem Boardroom
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Hanan Morsy*

Speakers:

Riham Ezzat and Nora Aboushady

Do Telecom Restrictive Policies Matter for Telecom Liberalization and Performance?

Asunur Cezar, Hulusi Öğüt, and Merve Güven

An Empirical Analysis of Demand for Mobile Services in Turkey

Discussant:

Amirah El-Haddad

DAY TWO

14:30 – 16:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

<p>INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Rent Control and Use of Research</p> <p>Carthage Ballroom</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Touhami Abdelkhalek</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Brahim Elmorchid and Hind Hourmat Allah</i></p> <p><i>Comprendre l'Utilisation de la Recherche en Sciences Sociales par les Organisations de la Société Civile: La Leçon Marocaine</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Shereen E. Attia</i></p> <p>Rent Control Dilemma Comeback in Egypt's Governance</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Imed Limam</i></p>	<p>FINANCE Banks and the Arab Spring</p> <p>Dougga Hall (Third Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Sultan Abou-Ali</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Mahmoud Haddad and Sam Hakim</i></p> <p>Are Banks A Casualty of The Arab Spring?</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Samir Ghazouani</i></p>	<p>MACROECONOMICS Macroeconomic Policy: Fiscal Sustainably and Inflation</p> <p>Amilcar Hall (Third Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Hoda Selim</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Abderrahim Chibi, Sidi Mohamed Chekouri and Mohamed Benbouziane</i></p> <p>Assessing Fiscal Sustainability in Algeria: A Nonlinear Approach</p> <hr/> <p><i>Doaa Akl Ahmed</i></p> <p>Modelling the Density of Egyptian Quarterly CPI Inflation</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Fatih Ozatay</i></p>
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16:00 – 16:30 COFFEE BREAK

16:30 – 18:00 SPECIAL EVENT: SOCIAL DRIVERS OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN THE ARAB WORLD | Carthage Ballroom

Chairperson: *Ishac Diwan* (Paris School of Economics and ERF)

Speakers: *Mohamad Al-Ississ*, After the Uprisings – The Transformation of Public Opinions

Melani Cammett and Nisrine Salti, Memories of Redistribution: Welfare Legacies and Political Attitudes and Behavior

Raj Desai, Anders Olofsguard and Tarik Yousef, Exclusion and Dissent: Explaining Political Action Among Youth

Discussant: *Tarek Masoud* (Harvard University)

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

The Politics of Import Tarriffs

Hadrumete Hall
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Mohamed Ali Marouani*

Speakers:

*Bob Rijkers, Gael Raballand and
Leila Baghdadi*Political Connections and Tariff
Evasion Evidence from Tunisia

*Leila Baghdadi, Hendrik Kruse
and Inma Martínez-Zarzoso*An Estimation of Tariff Pass-Through
in TunisiaDiscussant:
*Chahir Zaki***LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Poverty and Wealth Inequality

Hannibal Hall
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Hassan Hakimian*

Speakers:

*Ibrahim Elbadawi and Eman Refaat*Competitive Real Exchange Rates
are Good for the Poor

*Hoda El Enbaby and Rami Galal*Inequality of Opportunity
in Earnings and Wealth in EgyptDiscussant:
*Djavad Salehi-Isfahani***MICROECONOMICS**Poverty and Environmental
DegradationEl Jem Boardroom
(Third Floor)Chairperson: *Mohamed Matoussi*

Speakers:

*Hala Abou-Ali , Yasmine M. Abdel-
fattah and John Adams*Driving Forces of Environmental
Degradation in Arab Countries

*Mohamed Amara
and Hatem Jemmali*Household and Contextual Indica-
tors of Poverty in Tunisia: A Multi-
level AnalysisDiscussant:
Atif Kubursi

DAY THREE

9:00 – 11:00 **PLENARY SESSION 3: NAVIGATING THE TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY** | Carthage Ballroom

Chairperson: *Bassma Kodmani* (Arab Reform Initiative)

Speakers: *Eva Bellin* (Brandeis University)
Erik Berglof (London School of Economics)
Larry Diamond (Stanford University)

11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

<p>MACROECONOMICS Growth and Sectoral Transformation</p> <p>Amilcar Hall (Third Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Mahmoud Al-Iriani</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Sevil Acar and Ahmet Atıl Aşıcı</i></p> <p>Does Income Growth Relocate Ecological Footprint?</p> <hr/> <p><i>Walid Jebili and Lotfi Belakcem</i></p> <p>Sectoral Shifts, Diversification, and Regional Unemployment on the Eve of Revolution in Tunisia</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Mahmoud El-Gamal</i></p>	<p>LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Women Empowerment and Participation</p> <p>Hannibal Hall (Third Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Maryse Louis</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Ragui Assaad, Hanan Nazier and Racha Ramadan</i></p> <p>Empowerment is a Community Affair</p> <hr/> <p><i>Nelly El Mallakh, Mathilde Maurela and Biagio Speciale</i></p> <p>Women and Political Change: Evidence from the Egyptian Revolution</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Jackline Wahba</i></p>	<p>MICROECONOMICS Job Creation and Innovation</p> <p>El Jem Boardroom (Third Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Bruce Currie-Alder</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Bob Rijkers, Hassen Arouri, Caroline Freund and Antonio Nucifora</i></p> <p>Which Firms Create the Most Jobs in Developing Countries?</p> <hr/> <p><i>Tamer Taha</i></p> <p>Is Corruption “Greasing” or “Sanding” the Wheels of Innovation of Firms in MENA?</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Lahcen Achy</i></p>
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13:00 – 14:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:30 – 16:00 **SPECIAL EVENT: INEQUALITY IN THE ARAB WORLD** | Carthage Ballroom

Chairperson: *Djavad Salehi-Isfahani* (Virginia Tech University and ERF)

Speakers: *Ragui Assaad*, Inequality of Income and Wages in MENA:
Outcomes and Opportunities

Ishac Diwan, Attitudes Toward Inequality, What We Have Learned from the World
Values and Gallup Surveys

Caroline Krafft, Inequality in Human Development
in the Middle East and North Africa

Discussant: *John Roemer* (Yale University)

16:00 – 16:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

16:30 – 18:00 **PLENARY SESSION 4: AWARDS CEREMONY AND CLOSING** | Carthage Ballroom

PARTICIPANTS LIST

A

Yasmine Abdelfattah

British University in Egypt (BUE)
Egypt
Tel: +202 2687 5892
yasmine.mohamed@bue.edu.eg

Gam Abdelkader

University of Economics Management of
Nabeul
Tunisia
Tel: +216 2008 5005
amgam@mac.com

Hossam E. M. Abdelkader

Ain Shams University
Egypt
Tel: +20 12 8388 8349
drhos620@googlemail.com

Touhami Abdelkhalek

National Institute of Statistics
and Applied Economics (INSEA)
Morocco
Tel: +212 5 3777 4860
touhami@mail.com

Abla Abdel-Latif

Ministry of Trade and Industry
Egypt
Tel: +202 2794 0297
alatif@aucegypt.edu

Hany Abdel-Latif

Swansea University
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 17 9260 2699
591865@swansea.ac.uk

Yosr Abid-Fourati

Technical and Practical Assistance
to Development
Tunisia
Tel: +216 2328 0179
yosraf@tpadoffice.com

Hala Abou-Ali

Economic Research Forum (ERF)
Egypt
Tel: +202 3331 8606
habouali@erf.org.eg

Sultan Abou-Ali

Zagazig University
Egypt
Tel: +202 2291 2919
sabouali2007@yahoo.com

Khalid Abu Ismail

ESCWA
Lebanon
Tel: +961 197 8453
abu-ismail@un.org

Sevil Acar

Istanbul Kemerburgaz University
Turkey
Tel: +90 21 2604 0100
sevil.acar@kemerburgaz.edu.tr

Lahcen Achy

International Monetary Fund
USA
Tel: +1 202 623-7000
achyinsea@gmail.com

Doaa Akl Ahmed

University of Benha
Egypt
Tel: +2013 323 1012
doaa.ahmed01@fcom.bu.edu.eg

Ali Akarca

University of Illinois
USA
Tel: +1 773 208 1199
akarca@uic.edu

Abdlatif Al-Hamad

Arab Fund for Economic & Social
Development (AFESD)
Kuwait
Tel: +965 495 9300
ohossam@arabfund.org

Ali Abdel Gadir Ali

Consultant
Egypt
Tel: +202 012 7514 4443
aagali@gmail.com

Mahmoud Al Iriani

Dubai Economic Council
UAE
Tel: +971 4208 8112
maliriani@dec.org.ae

Mohamad Al-Ississ

American University in Cairo
Egypt
Tel: +202 2615 1000
alississ@aucegypt.edu

Rania Al-Mashat

Central Bank of Egypt
Egypt
Tel: +202 2770 2770
rania.almashat@cbe.org.eg

Fatima Al Shamsi

Paris-Sorbonne University - Abu Dhabi
UAE
Tel: +971 2656 9108
falshamsi@psuad.ac.ae

Hassan Aly

Ohio State University and Doha Institute for
Graduate Studies
USA
Tel: +1 61 4330 6021
aly.1@osu.edu

Mohmed Amara

University of Sousse
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7336 8130
Mohamed.amara.isg@gmail.com

Mohamed S. Amerah

City University
UAE
Tel: +971 5 0614 1107
amerah@cuca.ae

Abdessalem Aoun

Consultant
Tunisia
Tel: +216 5385 7665
a.aoun@laposte.net

Hassen Arouri

National Institute of Statistics
Tunisia
Tel: +216 71 891002
hassen.arouri@gmail.com

Ragui Assaad

University of Minnesota
USA
Tel: +1 612 625 4856
assaad@umn.edu

Ahmet Atıl Aşıcı

Istanbul Technical University
Turkey
Tel: +90 212 293 1300
asici@itu.edu.tr

Izak Atiyas

Sabancı University
Turkey
Tel: +90 216 483 9241
izak@sabanciuniv.edu

May A. Attallah

Université de Rennes 1
France
Tel: +33 60 58 57 954
may.attallah@univ-rennes1.fr

Shereen Attia

British University in Egypt
Egypt
Tel: +202 2687 5892
shereen.essam.attia@gmail.com

Mohamed Ayadi

University of Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9837 7467
mohamed.ayadi@isg.rnu.tn

Abdurrahman Aydemir

Sabancı University
Turkey
Tel: +90 216 483 90 00
aaydemir@sabanciuniv.edu

B**Leila Baghdadi**

University of Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7940 9333
leilabaghdadi@gmail.com

Cem Baslevent

Istanbul Bilgi University
Turkey
Tel: +90 21 2311 6168
cbaslevent@ku.edu.tr

Eva Bellin

Brandeis University
USA
Tel: +1 617 332 3039
ebellin@brandeis.edu

Mohamed Ben Abdallah

University of Tunis - El Manar
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9687 8332
mohamed.benabdallah@fsegt.rnu.tn

Mohamed Mekki Ben Jemaa

University of Carthage
Tunisia
Tel: +216 5229 4692
mekki.bendjemaa@ept.rnu.tn

Sami Bensassi

University of Birmingham
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 121 4144438
S.Bensassi@bham.ac.uk

Riadh Brini

University of Carthage
Tunisia
Tel: +216 974 46138
riadh.brini@fsegs.rnu.tn

Mohamed Benbouziane

University of Tlemcen
Algeria
Tel: +213 5 6132 9868
mbenbouziane@yahoo.fr

Abdelwahab Ben Hafaiedh

Applied Social Sciences Forum
Tunisia
a.benhafaiedh@assforum.org

Erik Berglof

University of London
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 20 7849 4918
c.berglof@lse.ac.uk

Sami Bibi

University of Laval
Canada
Tel: +1 418 656 3333
sami.bibi@ecn.ulaval.ca

Zouheir Bouchaddakh

University of Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9820 8768
z.bouchaddakh@fsegt.rnu.tn

Abdelkader Boudriga

University of Carthage
Tunisia
Tel: +216 2686 0076
abdelkader.boudriga@fulbrightmail.org

Mongi Boughzala

University of Tunis El-Manar
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9832 3647
mhboughzala@gmail.com

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Anis Boujaama

Institut National de la Statistique
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7189 1002
anis.boujaama@gmail.com

Mine Cinar

Loyola University
USA
Tel: +1 312 915 6066
mcinar@luc.edu

Nergiz Dincer

TED University
Turkey
Tel: +90 312 585 0038
nergiz.dincer@tedu.edu.tr

Ghazi Boulila

Higher School of Economic and Commercial
Sciences of Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9832 4869
ghazi.boulila@planet.tn

Bruce Currier-Alder

International Development Research
Centre (IDRC)
Egypt
Tel: +202 336 7051
bcurrie-alder@idrc.ca

Ishac Diwan

Paris-Dauphine University
France
Tel: +33 1 5324 1460
Ishac_Diwan@hks.harvard.edu

C

Melani Cammett

Harvard University
USA
Tel: +1 617 495 9849
mcammett@gov.harvard.edu

D

Anda David

Paris-Dauphine University
France
Tel: +33 1 5324 1460
david@dial.prd.fr

Slim Driss

University of Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9868 6041
slim_driss@yahoo.fr

E

Mohamed Chaffai

Sfax University
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7427 8777
mechaffai@gmail.com

Meltem Dayioglu Tayfur

Middle East Technical University
Turkey
Tel: +90 312 210 3085
dmeltem@metu.edu.tr

Fouzia Ejjanoui

Mohamed V University
Morocco
Tel: +212 6 6219 9388
fouzia_ejjanoui@hotmail.com

Housseem Eddine Chebbi

University of Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 2252 3334
chebbihe@gmail.com

Raj Desai

Georgetown University
USA
Tel: +1 202 687 2925
desair@georgetown.edu

Ibrahim A. ElBadawi

Dubai Economic Council
United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971 4 208 8112
ielbadawi@dec.org.ae

Ali Chebil

National Research Institute for Rural
Engineering, Water & Forestry
(INRGREF)
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9799 8520
Chebil.ali@iresa.agrinet.tn

Shantayanan Devarajan

World Bank
USA
Tel: +1 217 333 2681
sdevarajan@worldbank.org

Hoda El Enbaby

Economic Research Forum
Egypt
Tel: +202 333 18 672
henbaby@erf.org.eg

Mouna Cherkaoui

University of Mohamed V
Morocco
Tel: +212 3756 4128
cherkaoui.mouna@hotmail.com

Larry Diamond

Stanford University
USA
Tel: +1 650 724 6448
ldiamond@stanford.edu

Mahmoud El-Gamal

American University in Cairo
Egypt
Tel: +202 2615 1000
el-gamal@aucegypt.edu

Amirah El-Haddad

Cairo University
Egypt
Tel: +202 2572 9584
amirah.elhaddad@feps.edu.eg

Safaa El-Kogali

The World Bank
USA
Tel: +1 217 333 2681
selkogali@worldbank.org

AbdelRahmen El Lahga

University of Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9837 7467
rahmen.lahga@gmail.com

Abda Y. El-Mahdi

Unicons Consultancy Ltd.
Sudan
Tel: +249 1 8359 0631
abda@unicons.org

Nelly El Mallakh

University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne
France
Tel: +33 1 4407 8000
nelly.elmallakh@hotmail.com

Ahmed Elsayed

Institute for the Study of Labor
Germany
Tel: +49 22 8389 4161
elsayed@iza.org

Hadi Esfahani

University of Illinois
USA
Tel: +1 217 333 2681
esfahani@uiuc.edu

Thouraya Hadj Amor Essidesa

Monastir University
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9980 7686
thouraya.hadjamor@gmail.com

Riham Ahmed Ezzat

University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne
France
Tel: +33 1 4407 8000
Riham.Ahmed-Ezzat@univ-paris1.fr

F**Gasmi Faicel**

Institute of High Commercial Studies
of Sousse
Tunisia
Tel: +216 73 36 83 51
gasmi.faicel@gmail.com

Randall Filer

Hunter College
USA
Tel: +1 212-772-4000
rfiler@hunter.cuny.edu

Benjamin Frey

Swiss Agency for Development and
Cooperation
Egypt
Tel: +202 2795 1536
benjamin.frey@sdcc.net

G**Ahmed Galal**

Economic Research Forum
Egypt
Tel: +202 333 18 605
agalal@erf.org.eg

Rami Galal

University of London
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 20 7862 8000
rami_galal@soas.ac.uk

Olfa Najoua Ghali

University of Tunisia
Tunisia
Tel: +216 54 77 25 30
olfa.ghali@gnet.tn

Sofiane Ghali

University of Tunisia
Tunisia
Tel: +216 20 30 59 04
Sofiane.ghali@gnet.tn

Hafez Ghanem

The World Bank
USA
Tel: +1 217 333 2681
hghanem@worldbank.org

Samir Ghazouani

University of Manouba
Tunisia
Tel: +216 71 602 760
samir.ghazouani@gmail.com

Yvonne Giesing

Ludwig-Maximilians-University
Germany
Tel: +49 0 157 7030 5833
yvonne.giesing@econ.lmu.de

Mohamed Goaid

University of Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9837 7467
m.goaid@planet.tn

Wafik Grais

Consultant
France
Tel: +33 4 56 35 53 36
wgrais@gmail.com

Umut Gündüz

Istanbul Technical University
Turkey
Tel: +90 212 293 1300
gunduzu@gmail.com

PARTICIPANTS LIST

H

Mahmoud Haddad

University of Tennessee-Martin
USA
Tel: +1 731 881 7000
mhaddad@utm.edu

Mohamed Haddar

Tunisian Economic Association
Tunisia
haddar.mohamed@yahoo.fr

Houda Haffoudhi

University of Economics Management of
Nabeul
Tunisia
Tel: +216 20 085 005
h_haffoudhi@yahoo.fr

Jamal Ibrahim Haidar

University of Paris 1
France
Tel: +33 1 4407 8000
haidar.jamali@gmail.com

Sam Hakim

The Institute for Independent Studies
USA
shakim@theiis.org

Hassan Hakimian

University of London
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 20 7898 4475
H.Hakimian@soas.ac.uk

Najib Harabi

University of Applied Sciences
Switzerland
Tel: +41 3 2424 4900
najib.harabi@fhnw.ch

Ali Hashemi

Ashland University
USA
Tel: +1 41 9289 4142
ahashemi@ashland.edu

Omneia Helmy

Egyptian Center for Economic Studies
Egypt
Tel: +202 2461 9037
ohelmy@eces.org.eg

Rana Hendy

Economic Research Forum
Egypt
Tel: +202 333 18 600
rhendy@erf.org.eg

Amr Hosny

International Monetary Fund
USA
Tel: +1 202 623 4472
ahosny@imf.org

Hind Hourmat Allah

Marrakech University
Morocco
Tel: +212 5 2443 4885
hourmat_hind@yahoo.fr

J

Melise Jaud

The World Bank
USA
Tel: +1 217 333 2681
mjaud@worldbank.org

Walid Jebili

Enda Inter-Arabe
Tunisia
Tel: +216 98 773 033
walid.jebili@endarabe.org.tn

Hatem Jemmali

University of Sousse
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7336 8130
hatemjemmali79@gmail.com

K

Hanife Deniz Karaoglan

Middle East Technical University
Turkey
Tel: +90 312 210 30 69
kadeniz@metu.edu.tr

Zouhour Karray

University of Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 252 6706
Zouhour.karray@topnet.tn

Massoud Karshenas

University of London
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 20 7898 4535
mk@soas.ac.uk

Youssef Kiendrebeogo

The World Bank
USA
Tel: +1 202 779 4665
ykiendrebeogo@worldbank.org

Bassma Kodmani

Arab Reform Initiative
France
Tel: +339 5134 0528
b.kodmani@arab-reform.net

Caroline Krafft

University of Minnesota
USA
Tel: +1 612 625 5000
kraff004@umn.edu

Farouk Kria

National Council of Statistics
Tunisia
president@cns.tn

Mohammed Kriaa

ISG Tunisia
Tunisia
Tel: +216 5308 8810
mohamed.kriaa@gmail.com

Hendrik Kruse

Georg-August University
Germany
Tel: +49 5 5139 5103
hendrikwiard.kruse@stud.uni-goettingen.de

Atif A. Kubursi

McMaster University
Canada
Tel: +1 905 334 1745
kubursi@gmail.com

L**Hedi Larbi**

Former Minister of Infrastructure
and Sustainable Development
Tunisia
hedilarbi@gmail.com

Olivier Lavinal

The World Bank
USA
Tel: +1 202 458 4342
olavinal@worldbank.org

Imed Limam

Arab Fund for Economic & Social
Development (AFESD)
Kuwait
Tel: +965 495 9300
ilimam@arabfund.org

Maryse Louis

FEMISE
France
Tel: +33 4 9131 5195
m.louis@femise.org

M**Samir Baha-Eddine Malik**

University of Tlemcen
Algeria
Tel: +213 5 5511 2781
sb_maliki@mail.univ-tlemcen.dz

Samir Makdisi

American University of Beirut
Lebanon
Tel: +961 1 74 4485
makdisi@aub.edu.lb

Mohamed Ali Marouani

University Paris1-Panthéon-Sorbonne
France
Tel: +33 1 4407 8000
mohamed-ali.marouani@univ-paris1.fr

Tarek Masoud

Harvard University
USA
Tel: +1 617 496 3036
Tarek_Masoud@Harvard.edu

Hamadi Matoussi

Manouba University
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7085 0076
hamadi.matoussi@iscae.rnu.tn

Mohamed Matoussi

University of Tunis, El Manar
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7187 1564
msmat@gnet.tn

Wided Mattoussi

University of Jendouba
Tunisia
Tel: +216 2539 3123
wided.mattousse@gmail.com

Lassaad Mbarek

Central Bank of Tunisia
Tunisia
Tel: +216 2024 0636
lassaad.mbarek@bct.gov.tn

Walid Mensi

University of Tunis - El Manar
Tunisia
Tel: +216 2451 4829
walid.mensi@fsegt.rnu.tn

Kamiar Mohaddes

University of Cambridge
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 12 2333 5267
km418@cam.ac.uk

Hanan Morsy

European Bank
for Reconstruction
and Development
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 078 8101 3775
morsyh@ebrd.com

Imen Mouaddeb

University of Tunis
Tunisia
Tel: +216 9779 5982
i_imen2006@yahoo.fr

N**Mahmoud Sami Nabi**

University of Carthage
Tunisia
Tel: +216 53 818 116
mahmoudsami.nabi@ept.rnu.tn

Mustapha Nabli

Economic Research Forum
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7112 2000
mknabli@gmail.com

Sonia Naccache

University Tunis El Manar
Tunisia
Tel: +216 5252 1577
sonia1.naccache@gmail.com

Hanan Nazier

Cairo University
Egypt
Tel: +202 3571 8899
Hanan.nazier@feps.edu.eg

Jeffrey Nugent

University of Southern California
USA
Tel: +1 213 740 2107
nugent@usc.edu

PARTICIPANTS LIST

O

Hulisi Öğüt

TOBB University Of Economics & Technology
Turkey
Tel: +90 312 292 4218
hogut@etu.edu.tr

Hossam Omar

Arab Fund for Economic & Social
Development (AFESD)
Kuwait
Tel: +965 495 9300
ohossam@arabfund.org

Fatih Ozatay

TOBB University of Economics and Technol-
ogy
Turkey
Tel: +90 312 292 5574
fatih.ozatay@etu.edu.tr

Eman Refaat

Dubai Economic Council
United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971 5 6370 2277
erefaat@dec.org.ae

Bob Rijkers

The World Bank
USA
Tel: +1 202 473 0426
brijkers@worldbank.org

Reham Rizk

The British University in Egypt
Egypt
Tel: +20 0100 569 4722
reham.rizk@bue.edu.eg

Gerard Roland

University of California
USA
Tel: +1 510 642 4321
groland@econ.berkeley.edu

Khalid Sekkat

University of Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 477 78 20 35
ksekkat@ulb.ac.be

Hoda Selim

Economic Research Forum
Egypt
Tel: +202 333 18 600
hselim@erf.org.eg

Donia Smaali Bouhlila

University Tunis El Manar
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7187 2253
donia.smaali@hexabyte.tn

Marwa Souissi

University Tunis El Manar
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7187 2253
marwa.souissi@voila.fr

P

Adam Przeworski

New York University
USA
Tel: +1 212 998 3707
adam.przeworski@nyu.edu

John E. Roemer

Yale University
USA
Tel: +1 203 432 5249
john.roemer@yale.edu

T

Tamer Taha

United Nations University-Maastricht
The Netherlands
Tel: +202 0100 60 11 223
taha@merit.unu.edu

R

Maha Rabbat

Middle East and North Africa Policy Health
Forum
Egypt
Tel: +202 333 18 629
maha.rabbat@menahpf.org

S

Raed Safadi

OECD
France
Tel: +33 45 24 8912
Raed.SAFADI@oecd.org

Aysit Tansel

Middle East Technical University
Turkey
Tel: +90 312 210 2057
atansel@metu.edu.tr

Racha Ramadan

Cairo University
Egypt
Tel: +20 010 127 3506
racha.ramadan@feps.edu.eg

Hatem Salah

University of Manouba
Tunisia
Tel: +216 7160 1350
ha.salah@fsegt.rnu.tn

Bedri Kamil Onur Tas

TOBB University of Economics
and Technology
Turkey
Tel: +90 213 292 4112
onurtas@etu.edu.tr

Djavad Salehi-Isfahani

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State
University
Tunisia
Tel: +1 540 231 7697
salehi@vt.edu

Tahar Tayachi

Effat University
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966 2636 4300
ttayachi@effatuniversity.edu.sa

Ghada Tayem
University of Jordan
Jordan
Tel: +962 6 535 5000
g.tayem@ju.edu.jo

Ayça Tekin-Koru
TED University
Turkey
Tel: +90 312 585 0034
ayca.tekinkoru@tedu.edu.tr

Subidey Togan
Bilkent University
Turkey
Tel: +90 532 299 1582
togan@bilkent.edu

Mohamed Trabelsi
Dubai Economic Council
United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971 050 714 5758
trabelsim2011@gmail.com

Constantin Tsakas
Femise
France
Tel: +33 4 9131 5195
c.tsakas@femise.org

Insan Tunali
Koc University
Turkey
Tel: +90 21 2338 1427
itunali@ku.edu.tr

W

Jackline Wahba
University of Southampton
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 2380 593996
J.Wahba@soton.ac.uk

Y

Canan Yildirim
Kadir Has University
Turkey
Tel: +90 212 533 6532
canan.yildirim@khas.edu.tr

Tarik Yousef
Silatech
Qatar
Tel: +974 4499 4800
tyousef@silatech.com

Hoda Youssef
Researcher
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 7 79 34 87347
hodayoussef@hotmail.com

Z

Chahir Zaki
Cairo University
Egypt
Tel: +202 3331 8646
chahir.zaki@feps.edu.eg

Inma Martinez Zarzoso
Georg-August-University of Göttingen
Germany
Tel: +49 5 5139 9770
imartin@gwdg.de

Habib Zitouna
Ecole Polytechnique
de Tunisie
Tunisie
Tel: +216 2171 2525
hazitouna@gmail.com

Abdallah Zouache
Sciences Po Lille
France
Tel: +33 47742 1957
abdallah.zouache@sciencespo-lille.eu

Press

Eman El Eraqi
Al Ahram
Egypt
eman_eraqi@hotmail.com

Abd El Aziz El Masry
El Watan Newspaper
Egypt
elmasry_abdelaziz@hotmail.com

Mesbah Kotb
El Masry El Youm
Egypt
mesbahkotb@gmail.com

Rasha Nabil
Dream TV
Egypt
rashanabil78@live.com

Niveen Wahish
Al Ahram Weekly
Egypt
nwahish@yahoo.com

Management and Staff

Management

Ahmed Galal
Managing Director

Marwa Afifi
Executive Assistant to
Managing Director

Research

Hala Abou-Ali
Project Leader

Hoda El Enbavy
Researcher

Yasmine Fahim
Senior Programs Officer

Yasmine Fekry
Statistician

Rana Hendy
Economist

Maryse Louis
Program Manager

Ramage Nada
Program Assistant

Aalaa Naguib
Program Assistant

Heba Omar
Research Assistant/Statistician

Hoda Selim
Economist

Christiane Wissa
Statistical Consultant

Chahir Zaki
Economist

Communications

Hoda Azmi
Conference Manager

Ahmed Goher
Editor

Dina Mannaa
Communications Assistant

Namees Nabeel
Communications Manager

Administration and Finance

Mohamed Youssri
Director of Finance
and Administration

Mohamed Aladdine
Accountant

Anais Hagopian
Senior Administrative Officer

Sherif Osama
Senior Accountant

Rana Saied
Administrative Assistant

Contact Information

Address: 21 Al-Sad Al-Aaly St. Dokki,
Giza, Egypt

Tel: +202 333 18 600 - 603

Fax: +202 333 18 604

Email: erf@erf.org.eg

Website: www.erf.org.eg

FEEDBACK FORM

Thank you for attending ERF's 21st Annual Conference. We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback to improve our future events. Please help us by completing the form below by ticking the appropriate box for each statement. Kindly return your completed feedback form to the registration desk.

Name: (Optional) _____

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Overall Evaluation					
1. The main theme was well selected and covered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The agenda was well structured	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I will use what I learnt in this conference in my future research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. There was enough time for feedback and discussions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Overall, I am satisfied with this conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plenary Sessions					
6. The topic was engaging and interesting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The speakers were knowledgeable and well-prepared about the subject	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Discussions from the floor were helpful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parallel Sessions					
9. The topics were engaging and interesting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. The speakers were knowledgeable and well-prepared about the subject	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. The discussants did a good job and their comments were useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Discussions from the floor were helpful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logistics					
13. Travel and accommodation was well organized	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. My stay at the hotel was enjoyable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. My airport pickup was punctual and smooth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. The conference material and handouts were useful and relevant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional comments and suggestions for improvement
