

MEEEA

NEWSLETTER

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Letter from the MEEA Executive Secretary
- 2 Call for Papers MEEA Conference in Tunisia
- 3 Recent Journal Articles



MEEA Continues to Grow

Dear MEEA Members, Friends and Community,

MEEOA is getting ever more popular these days! We are receiving more and more proposals to organize international conferences, especially in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The MEEA Board is reviewing these proposals and will schedule them once it is assured of their success potential. **Currently, the Fifth International Conference of MEEA is planned to take place at the University of Sousse, Tunisia, on March 10-12, 2006 (see page 2 for the Call for Papers).** Additional conferences will be announced in the near future for 2007-2009. Activities in the current year have also been exciting. We have had three conferences in Philadelphia, Byblos, and Brussels.

The Philadelphia conference was held in conjunction with the ASSA meetings during Jan 6-9, 2005. Since it was MEEA's 25th Annual Meeting, the Board decided to arrange for a special event in addition to the normal six-session program. The event was a dinner featuring as keynote speaker John Page, who gave an interesting and energetic talk on poverty, migration, and trade in the region. John has done extensive research and policy work on MENA for more than three decades and has served as the Chief Economist of MENA region at the World Bank. He is currently the Chief Economist for the Africa Region.

The regular sessions presented a host of interesting papers. The first session covered public finance issues in MENA and the second one focused on the timely subject of the causes and consequences of economic sanctions. These were followed by our colorful poster session featuring 22 papers with a variety of topics. On the second day, two sessions were devoted to finance issues, which are becoming increasingly popular. One session examined the performance of financial markets in MENA and the other focused on the potential for microfinance. The last session of the meeting was devoted to trade and employment in MENA countries.

The MEEA Business meeting featured the announcement and presentation of the MEEA's Annual Ibn Khaldun Prize for young scholars. This year's prize went to Ossama Mikhail for his paper, "Economic Freedom and the Business Cycle: The Egyptian Experience."

The meeting in Byblos, Lebanon, was held during May 29-June 1, 2005. It was organized by the School of Business of the Lebanese American University as its Seventh International Conference on the Economics and Finance of the Middle East and North Africa. The conference included a series of high quality research papers as well as policy sessions in which included presentations by prominent economic policymakers and business leaders. The Brussels meeting was MEEA's Fourth International Conference and was organized during June 2-4 in collaboration with the Global Economic Modeling Network (ECOMOD) at the Free University of Brussels, Belgium. The conference consisted of ten sessions with more than 30 interesting papers. The first session was a plenary one on the labor market conditions in Iraq. The rest of the sessions were evenly divided between three major topics: macroeconomic policy and performance, trade and WTO, and the EU-MENA relations.

For the upcoming 2006 Annual Meeting of the MEEA in Boston, we have a promising program, available at our web site at www.meeaweb.org. We had more than sixty abstract submissions, of which we managed to accommodate 45 abstracts in our program. The space limitation meant that the Program Committee had to be selective, focusing on quality and match among papers accepted for presentation. As usual, there is a poster session that helps mitigate the problem of rejecting good papers. But, even in that case, the available space imposes strict limits. An important feature of the program is a panel discussion on Iraq, consisting of five prominent scholars who have studied various aspects of the Iraqi economy in the past and the present. The details of the 2006 Annual Meeting as well as the information about past MEEA conferences are available on our website, www.meeaweb.org.

I look forward to the continued progress of MEEA in facilitating high quality research in the coming years.

Hadi Salehi Esfahani
Executive Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEEA FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, SOUSSE, TUNISIA MARCH 2006

The Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) in association with the University of Sousse will hold its 5th International Conference on **March 10-12, 2006**, in Sousse, Tunisia. The main goal of this conference is to bring together distinguished economists from all over the world for the purpose of exchanging ideas, data, research findings and policy solutions to common problems on a number of interrelated issues such as Corruption, Trade, Investment, Macroeconomic management, Labour, Growth, Stabilization policies, political economy of policy reforms of relevance to the analysis of the economies of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It should provide an opportunity for established scholars from different intellectual viewpoints and countries to interact both with each other and with young researchers both inside and outside the region.

Proposed abstracts of papers that address the any one or more of the issues identified above or sub-themes listed below are solicited. To be eligible for inclusion in the conference the abstract should be received **in electronic form by October 15, 2005**. Possible topics need not be restricted to the themes mentioned above but each proposal should show the relevance of the proposed topic to the problems facing countries of the MENA region. Both broad theoretical approaches and specific case studies are welcome, especially if they address conference themes and make use of a comparative perspective. Postgraduate students and scholars from the region are especially encouraged to submit proposals.

Selection criteria by order of importance include: (1) the quality, interest and potential significance of the proposed paper, (2) seeming familiarity of the author with the relevant literature, (3) the quality of past presentations (if any) in MEEA, (4) compatibility of the proposed paper with others that are valued highly and chosen for inclusion, (5) the extent to which the proposal makes reference to (or may be relevant to) more than one country of the region, and (6) the timeliness and originality of the subject matter.

Notification of the decision on the inclusion of the proposed paper will be made by December 1, 2005. Abstracts as well as full papers are to be submitted by e-mail (as word or Pdf attachment) to: meea2006@topnet.tn A more complete call for papers can be found at www.meeaweb.org.

REVIEW OF MIDDLE EAST ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Routledge, Taylor & Francis are proud to announce the recent release of *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance*, edited by Wassim Shahin from the Lebanese American University.

Review of Middle East Economics and Finance aims at addressing applied original research in the fields of economics and finance pertaining to the Middle East and North Africa region including Turkey and Iran. A strong emphasis is placed on empirically based papers. The journal includes a review section of books dealing with the above topics.

Manuscripts to be considered for publication should be submitted to: Wassim Shahin, Editor, MEEF, School of Business, Lebanese American University, PO Box 36, Byblos, Lebanon. Electronic submissions in a format other than pdf are encouraged and preferred at meef@lau.edu.lb

For more information on the journal or to request a free sample copy please visit our website at www.tandf.co.uk/journals.

IBN KHALDUN PRIZE

Reminder that submissions for the Ibn Khaldun Prize for the best paper on one or more Middle Eastern countries by a junior economist (no more than five years after receiving Ph.D.) must be received no later than December 5, 2005 at the following address: Prof. Jeffrey B. Nugent, Dept. of Economics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0253, USA. The entries will be evaluated by a three person committee. The prize is for \$150 and the selected paper will be eligible for consideration for publication in an appropriate publication of the MEEA.

FAO- EGYPT VISITING EMINENT SCHOLARS

FAO Regional Office for the Near East is interested in hosting eminent economists (including agricultural and development economists) on sabbatical leave, or who have a month or so of time to spare, who wish to undertake collaborative analytical economic research together with FAO chief regional economist in Cairo, Egypt. The collaborative research is intended to be published as working paper and/or chapter of the FAO flagship publications – as well as being presented in relevant regional and global conferences and other fora. Our research area focuses on the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. FAO will pay travel, living expenses and other miscellaneous expenditures – but no stipend. Please submit CV and covering letter, indicating your time of availability, to FAO Regional Economist: Dr. Yassin Wehelie, FAO-RNE, Cairo (Egypt), Phone: 20-2 331 6170, email: Yassin.wehelie@fao.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Recent Journal Articles

As part of the information services to MEEA members, the Newsletter will list recent academic journal articles on the economics of the Middle East. Authors who would like their articles to be listed or abstracted are encouraged to send them directly to the editor. Preference is given to articles from journals that are indexed by the *Journal of Economic Literature*.

- Abual-Foul, Bassam. "Testing the Export-Led Growth Hypothesis: Evidence from Jordan." *Applied Economics Letters*. v11, n6 (May 2004): 393-96.
- Al-Qudsi, Sulayman S. "Family Background, School Enrollments and Wastage: Evidence from Arab Countries." *Economics of Education Review*. v22, n6 (December 2003): 567-80.
- Baslevant, Cem and Ozlem Onaran. "The Effect of Export-Oriented Growth on Female Labor Market Outcomes in Turkey." *World Development*. v32, n8 (August 2004): 1375-93.
- Boughanmi, Houcine, et al. "The Determinants of GCC Intra-industry Trade in Agricultural Products." *Journal of Development and Economic Policies*. v6, n1(December 2003): 61-84.
- Bougroum, Mohammed and Aomar Ibouk. "The Effects of Job-Creation Schemes in Morocco." *International Labour Review*. v142, n3 (2003): 341-71.
- Choudhury, Masudul Alam. "Oil and Water Do Mix: The Case of Saudi Arabia." *Journal of Developing Areas*. v37, n2 (Spring 2004): 169-79.
- Datt, Gaurav and Dean Jolliffe. "Poverty in Egypt: Modeling and Policy Simulations." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* v53. n2 (January 2005): 327-46.
- Datt, Gaurav and Jennifer C. Olmsted. "Induced Wage Effects of Changes in Food Prices in Egypt" *Journal of Development Studies*. v40, n4 (April 2004): 137-66.
- Dessus, Sebastien. "A Palestinian Growth History, 1968-2000." *Journal of Economic Integration*. v19, n3 (September 2004): 447-69.
- Dibooglu, Sel and Eisa Aleisa. "Oil Prices, Terms of Trade Shocks, and Macroeconomic Fluctuations in Saudi Arabia." *Contemporary Economic Policy*. v22, n1 (January 2004): 50-62.
- Esfahani, Hadi Salehi, "Alternative Public Service Delivery Mechanisms in Iran," *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, (May 2005), 45.2-3: 479-525.
- Esfahani, Hadi Salehi, "Fatal Attraction: Turkey's Troubled Relationship with the European Union," *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, (Winter 2003), 43.5: 807-826.
- Foltz, Jeremy D. "Credit Market Access and Profitability in Tunisian Agriculture." *Agricultural Economics*. v30, n3 (May 2004): 229-40.
- Jensen, Jesper and David Tarr. "Trade, Exchange Rate, and Energy Pricing Reform in Iran: Potentially Large Efficiency Effects and Gains to the Poor." *Review of Development Economics*. v7, n4 (November 2003): 543-62.
- Khashadourian, Edmund and Abbas P. Grammy. "The Political Economy of Growth-Inflation Transmission: The Case of Iran." *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance*. v2, n2 (August 2004): 109-21.
- Koford, Kenneth. "Iraq and Law and Economics." *Eastern Economic Journal*. v30, n1 (Winter 2004): 135-39
- Konan, Denise Eby and Karl E. Kim. "Beyond Border Barriers: The Liberalisation of Services Trade in Tunisia and Egypt." *The World Economy*. v27, n9 (September 2004): 1429-47.
- Kucukmehmetoglu, Mehmet and Jean-Michel Guldmann. "International Water Resources Allocation and Conflicts: The Case of the Euphrates and Tigris." *Environment and Planning*. v36, n5 (May 2004): 783-801.
- Kuran, Timur. "Why the Middle East is Economically Underdeveloped: Historical Mechanisms of Institutional Stagnation." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. v18, n3(Summer 2004): 71-90.
- Limam, Imed. "Is Long Memory a Property of Thin Stock Markets? International Evidence Using Arab Countries." *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance*. v1, n3 (December 2003): 251-66.
- McQuillan, Kevin. "When Does Religion Influence Fertility?" *Population and Development Review*. v30, n1 (March 2004): 25-56.
- Mesnard, Alice. "Temporary Migration and Capital Market Imperfections." *Oxford Economic Papers*. v56, n2 (April 2004): 242-62.
- Missaglia, Marco and Paul de Boer. "Food-for-Work versus Cash-for-Work: Emergency Assistance in Palestine." *Economic Systems Research*. v16, n4 (December 2004): 367-390.
- Omran, Mohammed "The Performance of State-Owned Enterprises and Newly Privatized Firms: Does Privatization Really Matter?" *World Development*. v32, n6 (June 2004): 1019-41.
- Omran, Mohammed and Ali Bolbol. "Foreign Direct Investment, Financial Development, and Economic Growth: Evidence from the Arab Countries." *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance*. v1, n3 (December 2003): 231-49.
- Pamuk, Sevket. "The Evolution of Financial Institutions in the Ottoman Empire, 1600-1914." *Financial History Review*. v11, n1 (April 2004): 7-32.
- Posusney, Marsha Pripstein. "Globalization and Labor Protection in Oil-Poor Arab countries: Racing to the Bottom?" *Global Social Policy*. v3, n3 (December 2003): 267-97.
- Sekkat, Khalid. "Sources of Growth in Morocco: An Empirical Analysis in a Regional Perspective." *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance*. v2, n1 (April 2004): 1-17.
- Tansel, Aysit. "Public-Private Employment Choice, Wage Differentials, and Gender in Turkey" *Economic Development and Cultural Change* v53, n2 (January 2005): 453-77.
- Torbat, Akbar E. "Impacts of the US Trade and Financial Sanctions on Iran." *The World Economy*. v28 n3 (Fall 2005): 407-434.
- Valadkhani, Abbas "What Determines Private Investment in Iran?" *International Journal of Social Economics* v31, n5-6 (Part 1 2004): 457-68.
- Wilkins, Karin Gwinn. "The Civil Intifada: The Power and Politics of the Palestinian Census." *Development and Change*. v35, n5 (November 2004): 891-908.
- Yousef, Tarik. "Development, Growth and Policy Reform in the Middle East and North Africa since 1950." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, v18, n3, Summer 2004, pp. 91-116.

API INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

The Arab Planning Institute is hosting a conference from March 20-21st on "New Approaches to the Design of Development Policies" in Beirut, Lebanon. The main objective of the conference is to debate the efficacy of new approaches to the design of development policies. Papers can be on one of many themes, including empirical studies on the relative development performance of countries with different policies and country studies. For a full list of themes, see the API website at www.arab-api.org.

Interested researchers are invited to submit an electronic copy of a completed manuscript (in Arabic or English) on any of the conference themes, not exceeding 25 single-spaced pages, to the Conference coordinator on or before September 30, 2005.

Submitted papers will be appropriately refereed and final decisions on accepted papers will be communicated no later than November 30, 2005. Final manuscripts, in required format, with changes consistent with any requested revisions, must be received by the conference coordinator by January 25, 2006.

Conference Coordinator:

Arab Planning Institute; P.O.Box 5834 Safat 13059 Kuwait; E-mail: api@api.org.kw; www.arab-api.org

For the latest version of the conference program, as well as announcements about future conferences, grants, and publications, be sure to visit MEEA's web site at

www.meeaweb.org

Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Middle East Economic Association, please fill out this form and return it to the Treasurer. The membership fee is \$25 for faculty and other professionals, \$20 for students, and \$10 for all members residing in a MENA country.

Name: _____

Rank & Affiliation

Professional Address

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The Middle East Economic Association, a non-profit international organization, was formed in 1978 and is affiliated with the American Economic Association and the Middle East Studies Association. The main objective of MEEA is to foster scholarship and to establish lines of communication among specialists interested in the Political Economy of the Middle East. **Web:** www.meeaweb.org

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