



MEEA

NEWSLETTER

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

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Summer 2008

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Letter from the Executive Secretary

Two thousand eight has been a vibrant year in terms of conference activities of the MEEA. We had more sessions in both the winter meetings in New Orleans and the summer meetings in North Cyprus.

In the winter meetings, we faced another cut in the number of our ASSA sessions in New Orleans again, but the increase in the number of pre-ASSA sessions we put together more than compensated for the ASSA session we lost. The 28th Annual Conference was, in fact, the first conference where we had parallel pre-ASSA sessions. These five pre-ASSA sessions complemented the five ASSA sessions that we organized in the slots provided by the American Economic Association and were held at the University of New Orleans, thanks to Kabir Hassan's help.

Our 7th International Conference held May 29-31 at the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) in North Cyprus was also a great success. The meetings were attended by more than 150 economists from 18 different countries and around a hundred papers were presented, including papers presented in student sessions. North Cyprus meetings turned out to be very enjoyable for everyone, thanks to the hard work that local organization committee headed by Dr. Gulcay Tuna-Payaslioglu put in. In addition to nicely organized sessions, everyone had a good time at receptions and dinners, the venues of which I had visited prior to the meetings. I just loved the venues that I visited during my trip to the island in December 2007 but they were much nicer in May, thanks to the beautiful weather.

Announcing

Eighth International Conference of the Middle East Economic Association
held jointly with the Hedge Fund Research Institute (HFRI), the International University of Monaco (IUM) and the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis CEMAFI

Nice (France) and Monte-Carlo (Monaco)
March 18-20, 2009

Abstract Deadline: Sept 15, 2008
Full Paper Deadline: Jan 10, 2009

Find submission forms and submit papers online at
<http://mee2009.monaco.edu/>

email address [mee2009@monaco.edu](mailto:meea@monaco.edu)

The Conference program includes plenary sessions, presentations of contributed papers, and special sessions for papers by PhD students. All economics and finance research concerning Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries are welcome. However, the topics listed below will form the main themes of the conference. Contributions by PhD students are encouraged to foster research among young professionals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 since receiving Ph.D.) must be received no later than December 10th, 2008 at the following address: Prof. Jeffrey B. Nugent, Dept. of Economics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0253, USA.(email: nugent@usc.edu) . The entries will be evaluated by a three person committee.

THE ROUTLEDGE CURZON POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA SERIES

EDITED BY HASSAN HAKIMIAN, CITY UNIVERSITY, LONDON

Since its launch in 2003, the Series has been established as a leading source of publications covering pertinent topics relating to the political economy of the Middle East and North Africa region. Submissions from prospective authors are welcomed, and should be sent in the first instance to the series editor (H.Hakimian@city.ac.uk).

FORTHCOMING TITLES IN 2008:

Labour Markets in the Middle East and North Africa, edited by Tarik M. Yousef, Dubai School of Government, UAE.

Economic Performance in the Middle East and North Africa: Institutions, Corruption and Reform by Serdar Sayan, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara Turkey.

PUBLISHED TITLES

Trade Policy and Economic Integration in the Middle East and North Africa: Economic Boundaries in Flux, edited by Hassan Hakimian, (City University, UK) and Jeffrey B. Nugent, (University of Southern California, USA).

Islam and The Everyday World: Public Policy Dilemmas, edited by Sohrab Behdad (Denison University, USA) and Farhad Nomani(American Univeristy of Paris).

WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

Jeff Nugent will be organizing panels for the Western Economic Association International's meetings in Vancouver, BC, June 29- July 3, 2009. If you are interested in presenting a paper on any economic topic concerning the Middle East or economic development in general, please contact Jeff. You should also indicate your willingness to serve as a discussant. He needs both of the paper abstract and your indication of willingness to serve as a discussant by January 8th. Contact him at nugent@usc.edu or (phone) 213 740-2107.

secretary's letter (continued from page 1)

The preparations are currently under way for the 8th International Meetings to be held at the International University of Monaco, March 18-20, 2009. The deadline for submission of abstracts is September 15 and I strongly recommend that you visit the conference web site at http://meeaa2009.monaco.edu/prog_committee.php to get more information about this conference which, I think, is likely to be a great one.

Speaking of web sites, the MEEA web site has a new face which I am sure you all will like. Make sure to visit <http://meeaweb.org> frequently to learn about upcoming events and announcements about summer and winter conferences. The program for the 29th Annual Conference that will begin on January 2, 2009 in San Fransisco is already available in our web site.

We in the program committee really had a tough time, while trying to decide which papers to accept for presentation at the San Fransisco meetings. We eventually have accepted 36 papers for presentation in the eight pre-ASSA sessions that we will have at the University of San Fransisco on January 2, one day prior to the opening of ASSA meetings. Two of the pre-ASSA sessions were proposed by our members: The session proposed by Jennifer Olmsted is about the Palestinian economy and the session proposed by Nathalie Hilmi is about capital flows. The rest of the accepted papers will be presented in three regular sessions plus a poster session to be held as part of the ASSA meetings. I am looking forward to seeing the authors of all accepted papers in New Orleans in January.

In closing, I would like to give you an update about our associated journals. Selected papers from the 28th Annual Conference in New Orleans and the 6th International Conference held at Zayed University in Dubai in 2007 were already published in volume 10 of our on-line journal, Topics in Middle Eastern and North African Economies. You can access Volume 10 at <http://www.luc.edu/orgs/meea/volume10/meea10.html> . The other associated journal, Review of Middle East Economics and Finance (RMEEF), whose publication was terminated in 2005, is back with volume 4 (<http://www.bepress.com/rmeef/>). The volume was published by the Berkeley Electronic Press, the new publisher, under the editorship of Ghassan Dibeh who took over the responsibilities of founding editor Wassim Shahin. The journal continues to need the support of MEEA members as authors of high quality manuscripts, punctilious and prompt referees, as well as loyal readers who would provide the feedback that the editorial team needs to further improve the journal's quality.

I hope to see you all in San Fransisco in January and in Monaco in March 2009.

Serdar Sayan,

TOBB University of Economics and Technology

Recent Journal Articles

As part of the information services to MEEA members, the newsletter publishes a selection of recent journal articles on the economic issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Articles are selected with the criteria of providing regional diversity. Priority is given to articles in journals that are more highly ranked according to ISI's impact factor and that are indexed by EconLit. Please email the newsletter editor if you wish to include your recent publications.

- Abdelali-Martini, Malika, Amri, Ahmed, Ajlouni, Mohammed., Assi, Raghed, Sbieh, Younes and Ali Khnifes.** 2008. "Gender dimension in the conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in West Asia." *Journal of Socio-Economics* 37, no.1:365-383.
- Abiad, Abdul, Oomes Nienke and Kenichi Ueda.** 2008. "The Quality Effect: Does Financial Liberalization Improve the Allocation of Capital?" *Journal of Development Economics* 87, no.2: 270-282.
- Abu-Qarn, Aamer S.; Abu-Bader, Suleiman.** 2008. "Structural Breaks in Military Expenditures: Evidence for Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria." *Peace Economics, Peace Science, & Public Policy* 14, no.1:1-23.
- Amara Jomana.** 2008. "Military Industrialization and Economic Development: Jordan's Defense Industry." *Review of Financial Economics* 17, no. 2:130-145.
- Amid, Javad.** 2007. "The dilemma of cheap food and self-sufficiency: The case of wheat in Iran." *Food Policy* 32, no. 4:537-552.
- Arnon, Arie.** 2007. "Israeli Policy towards the Occupied Palestinian Territories: The Economic Dimension, 1967-2007". *Middle East Journal* 61, no. 4:573-595.
- Asfaw, Abay.** 2007. "Do Government Food Price Policies Affect the Prevalence of Obesity? Empirical Evidence from Egypt." *World Development* 35, no. 4: 687-701.
- Cammett, Melani.** 2007. "Business-Government Relations and Industrial Change: The Politics of Upgrading in Morocco and Tunisia." *World Development* 35, no.11: 1889-1903
- Chaney Eric.** 2008. "Assessing Pacification Policy in Iraq: Evidence from Iraqi Financial Markets." *Journal of Comparative Economics* 36, no. 1: 1-16.
- Chemingui, Mohamed Abdelbasset and Terry Roe.** 2008. "Petroleum Revenues in Gulf Cooperation Council, Countries and their Labor Market Paradox." *Journal of Policy Modeling* 30, no.3:491-503.
- Damar, H. Evren.** 2007. "Does Post-Crisis Restructuring Decrease the Availability of Banking Services? The Case of Turkey." *Journal of Banking & Finance* 31, no. 9: 2886-2905
- Dibooglu, Sel and Salim N. AlGudhea.** 2007. "All time Cheaters versus Cheaters in Distress: An Examination of Cheating and Oil Prices in OPEC." *Economic Systems* 31, no. 3: 292-310.
- Fernandez Viviana.** 2008. "The War on Terror and its Impact on the Long-term Volatility of Financial Markets." *International Review of Financial Analysis* 17, no. 1:1-26
- Gawdat, Bahgat.** 2007. "Energy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict." *Journal of Social, Political & Economic Studies* 32, no. 3:305-316.
- Hammoudeh Shawkat and Yuan Yuan.** 2008. "Metal Volatility in Presence of Oil and Interest Rate Shocks." *Energy Economics* 30, no. 2: 606-620.
- Hammoudeh, Shawkat and Kyongwook Choi.** 2007. "Characteristics of Permanent and Transitory Returns in Oil-Sensitive Emerging Stock Markets: The Case of GCC Countries." *Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money* 17, no. 3: 231-245.
- Harris, Leila M.** 2008. "Water Rich, Resource Poor: Intersections of Gender, Poverty, and Vulnerability in Newly Irrigated Areas of Southeastern Turkey." *World Development*,
- Harvie, Charles and Ali Salman Saleh.** 2007. "Lebanon's Economic Reconstruction after the War: A Bridge too far?" *Journal of Policy Modeling, International Review of Law and Economics* 28, no. 1 (March): 32-45.
- Malik, Farooq and Shawkat Hammoudeh.** 2007. "Shock and Volatility Transmission in the Oil, US and Gulf Equity Markets." *International Review of Economics & Finance* 16, no.3:357-368.
- Mehrara, Mohsen and Kamran Niki Oskoui.** 2007. "The Sources of Macroeconomic Fluctuations in Oil Exporting Countries: A Comparative Study." *Economic Modelling* 24, no.3:365-379.
- Momani, Bessma.** 2007. "A Middle East Free Trade Area: Economic Interdependence and Peace Considered." *The World Economy*, pp. 1682-1700.
- Momani, Bessma.** 2007. "The EU, the Middle East and Regional Integration." *World Economics*, Vol 8. No. 1: pp. 1-10.
- Naceur, Samy Ben, Ghazouani, Samir, and Omran, Mohammed.** 2007. "The Performance of Newly Privatized Firms in Selected MENA Countries: The Role of Ownership Structure, Governance and Liberalization Policies." *International Review of Financial Analysis* 16, no. 4:332-353.
- Nader, Yasmine F.** 2008. "Microcredit and the socio-economic wellbeing of women and their families in Cairo." *Journal of Socio-Economics* 37, no.2(April): 644-656.
- Nakibullah, Ashraf and Faridul Islam.** 2007. "Effect of Government Spending on Non-Oil GDP of Bahrain." *Journal of Asian Economics* 18, no. 5:760-774.
- Noland, Marcus and Pack Howard.** 2008. "Arab Economies at a Tipping Point." *Middle East Policy* 15, no. 1:60-69.
- Nugent, Jeffrey.** 2008. "Institutions and Economic Performance: The Use and Abuse of Culture in New Institutional Economics: A Response to Heydemann." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 43, no. 2:206-217.
- Omran, M.F.** 2007. "An Analysis of the Capital Asset Pricing Model in the Egyptian Stock Market". *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance* 46, no. 5: 801-812.
- Omran, Mohammed.** 2007. "Privatization, State Ownership, and Bank Performance in Egypt." *World Development* 35, no. 4:714-733.
- Önder, Zeynep and Süheyla Özyıldırım.** 2008. "Market Reaction to Risky Banks: Did Generous Deposit Guarantee Change It?" *World Development* 36, no. 8:1415-1435.
- Özdemir, Zeynel Abidin, and Mahir Fisunoğlu.** 2008. "On the Inflation-Uncertainty Hypothesis in Jordan, Philippines and Turkey: A Long Memory Approach." *International Review of Economics & Finance*, 17, no. 1:1-12.
- Strzepek, Kenneth M., Yohe, Gary W., Tol, Richard S.J., Rosegrant, Mark W.** 2008. "The Value of the High Aswan Dam to the Egyptian Economy." *Ecological Economics* 66, no.1: 117-126.
- Telli, Çağatay, Voyvoda, Ebru, and Erinç Yeldan.** 2008. "Economics of Environmental Policy in Turkey: A General Equilibrium Investigation of the Economic Evaluation of Sectoral Emission Reduction Policies for Climate Change." *Journal of Policy Modeling*, 30, no.2: 321-340.
- Yilmaz, Cengiz and Ercan Ergun.** 2008. "Organizational Culture and Firm Effectiveness: An Examination of Relative Effects of Culture Traits and the Balanced Culture Hypothesis in an Emerging Economy." *Journal of World Business* 43, no. 3:290-306.
- Yilmazkuday, Hakan and Koray Akay.** 2008. "An Analysis of Regime Shifts in the Turkish Economy." *Economic Modelling* 25, no. 5: 885-898.

**MEEA EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
NICE, FRANCE AND MONACO
MARCH 18-20, 2009**

The Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) in association with the Hedge Fund Research Institute (HFRI), the International University of Monaco (IUM) and the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis CEMAF will hold its 8th International Conference on March 18-20, 2009, in Nice and Monaco.

The goal of the conference is to promote and stimulate the exchange of ideas in the field of economic research applied to the Middle East and North African (MENA) countries. The conference will cover all areas of economics and finance with application to the MENA region. Submission papers must be sent to Nathalie HILMI and Alain SAFA at meea2009@monaco.edu.

Authors are reminded of the following deadlines:
Deadline for abstract submission is **15 September 2008**
Deadline for submission of full papers is **10 January 2009**
Reply to authors on full acceptance: **23 January 2009**
Announcement of the program by: **1 February 2009**

Details are available on the conference website at <http://meea2009.monaco.edu>/or on the MEEA's website at <http://www.meeaweb.org>.

Best Regards,

MEEA Programming Committee
Mine Cinar, Loyola University Chicago
Hadi Esfahani, University of Illinois
Hassan Aly, Ohio State University
Edward Sayre, University of Southern Mississippi

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: _____

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Address _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

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Send to: Hassan Aly
Treasurer, Middle East Economic Association
318 Morrill Hall
Ohio State University
Marion, Ohio 43302-5695

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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