

MEEEA

NEWSLETTER

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

Vol. 17 No. 1

www.meeaweb.org

Summer 2006

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Letter from the Executive Secretary

Dear MEEA Members, Friends, and Community,

MEEA is having a busy year. We had three successful conferences this year and another three have been planned for next year. As in the past, we are working to get the proceedings of our international conferences published. This also happens to be the election year for all MEEA offices.

MEEA's 2006 Annual Meeting in Boston covered a host of topical issues and went quite well. We had a special panel session on the economic prospects of Iraq, which offered a rare occasion to consider the current economic policies and potential future outcomes in that war-torn country. In another pre-organized session, we heard about the size and role of workers' remittances, which is a major issue for most MENA countries. The third session on the first day was devoted to poster presentations, which covered a wide and colorful range of topics. On the second day, we had three other interesting sessions covering developments in the Turkish economy and finance, investment, and politics in MENA.

The MEEA Business meeting featured the announcement and presentation of the MEEA's Annual Ibn Khaldun Prize for young scholars, which this year went to Mehmet Tosun of West Virginia University for his paper, "Explaining the Variation in Tax Structures in the MENA Region."

The MEEA's Sixth International Conference was held this year at Sousse, Tunisia, March 10-12. The local organizing committee, headed by Adel Boughrara, had done a great job ensuring large participation and good quality papers at an enjoyable and affordable place. The conference was opened by Dr. Lazhar Bououny, Minister of Higher Education of Tunisia, and the Presidents of Sousse University and the MEEA. That ceremony was followed by a plenary session on growth, trade, and finance in MENA region. The rest of the sessions covered those topics in detail as well as macroeconomic, labor, and governance issues. There was a lot to learn on all of these topics. However, it is interesting to note that based on a frequency count of the papers in the conference, finance and foreign direct investment appear to have become major research topics in the region.

The third conference was the 8th International Conference on the Economics and Finance of the MENA in Byblos, Lebanon, May 22-24, 2006. That annual conference is organized by the School of Business of the



Lebanese American University. The conference included a series of high quality research papers as well as a policy session in which a new economic policy plan for Lebanon was discussed by current and former leading policymakers in the country.

For the upcoming 2007 Annual Meeting of the MEEA in Chicago, we have a finalizing the program. We have a large number of good quality submission and the usual space limitations forces us to be very selective. This year, the Annual Meeting will also feature a dinner-lecture event on January 5 in which we will hear a talk by Jeffrey Nugent on economic growth in MENA. The details of the program will soon appear on our website, www.meeaweb.org.

The MEEA's next International Conference will be held in Dubai, March 14-16, 2007, thanks to our colleagues at the Zayed University. The next annual conference in Byblos is also being planned for the latter part of May.

Finally, to manage MEEA's elections this year, a Nomination and Election Committee has been formed by the ex-presidents of the MEEA. The Committee is seeking nominations for the positions of the president, executive secretary, treasurer, and the board. All MEEA members who are up to date on their dues will be eligible to nominate, be nominated, and vote in the elections that will take place during the summer. A message to this effect has been sent to all MEEA members. For further information please see the MEEA website or contact Professor Jeff Nugent, nugent@usc.edu.

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 SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, ZAYED UNIVERSITY, DUBAI, UAE MARCH 2007

The Middle East Economic Association (MEEA), in association with Zayed University, will hold its 6th International Conference on 14 - 16 March 2007 at Zayed University in Dubai, UAE.

The main goals of the conference are:

- to bring together distinguished economists from all over the world
- to exchange ideas, data, research findings and policy solutions to common problems on a number of interrelated issues such as Trade, Investment, Macroeconomic management, Labour, Growth, Stabilization policies, and the political economy of policy reforms of relevance to the analysis of the economies of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in general, and the GCC in particular
- to 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.

To be eligible for inclusion in the conference the abstract should be received through the online system (found at <http://www.zu.ac.ae/meea/meea.aspx>) by 30 October 2006. Possible topics need not be restricted to the themes 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.

Proposals for complete sessions (three to four papers each) are also invited. Organizers of proposed sessions should submit abstracts of all papers by 2 October 2006.

Notification of the decision on the inclusion of the proposed paper will be made by 4 December 2006. For selected papers, the full papers including the title of the paper, the author's title, email address, and the revised abstract of not more than 200 words and the JEL classification code most suited to the content of the paper should be submitted online by 30 January 2007.

Complete information can be found at the conference website <http://www.zu.ac.ae/meea/meea.aspx>

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, 2006 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.

FORTHCOMING SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM IN *JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE*

Serdar Sayan has edited a special symposium section to appear in the Journal of Economics and Finance (JEF) based on selected papers presented in the "Corruption and Governance: The Case of MENA and Mediterranean Countries" workshop he organized at the 2005 Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meetings held in Florence. The special section on the "Empirics of Corruption and Crime" will appear in Summer 2006 issue of the JEF and will include papers focusing on the MENA region and Turkey, as well as cross country studies that include MENA countries in their samples.

Sayan is also organizing a special session on the "Economics of Terrorism and Crime" as part of the first International Conference on Economics organized by the Turkish Economic Association (ICE-TEA) to be held September 2006 in Ankara. Papers to be presented at the session include studies on Lebanon and Turkey.

EIGHTH MEDITERRANEAN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE, MARCH 21-25 2007, FLORENCE

Deadline July 10, 2006

The Mediterranean Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and the European University Institute in Florence (Italy) is organising the Eighth Mediterranean Social and Political Research (MSPR) Meeting which will take place from 21-25 March 2007 in Florence and Montecatini Terme and will bring together about 250 scholars from the Middle East & North Africa (MENA), Europe, and elsewhere.

Ghassan Dibeh of the Lebanese American University- Byblos and David Cobham of Heriot-Watt University are co-directing a workshop on Monetary Policy and Central Banking in the MENA Region as part of this conference. Please contact Ghassan Dibeh (gdibeh@lau.edu.lb) directly if you have any questions about this workshop.

The deadline for applications is July 10, 2006. Read more about the various workshops at the website for the meeting at <http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/Research/Mediterranean/mrm2007/Index.shtml>

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*.

- Akram, Tanweer. "Wars, Sanctions, and Iraq: A Simple Model and Some Empirics." *Global Journal of Finance and Economics*, v1, n2, (September 2004): 131-53.
- Al-Kawaz, Ahmed. "Forward-Looking Approach for Fiscal Sustainability: A Case of Egypt, Indonesia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates." *OPEC Review*. v29, n1, (March 2005): 1-36.
- Al-Mejren, Abbas A. "Upstream Privatization: Issues and Arguments." *Journal of Energy and Development*. v30, n2, (Spring 2005): 279-98.
- Astrup, Claus and Sebastien Dessus. "Exporting Goods or Exporting Labor?: Long-Term Implications for the Palestinian Economy." *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance*, v3, n1, (April 2005): 39-61.
- Bakhshoodeh, M. and K.J. Thomson. "Social Welfare Effects of Removing Multiple Exchange Rates: Evidence from the Rice Trade in Iran." *Agricultural Economics*. v34, n1, (January 2006) : 17-23.
- Bellalah, Mondher, Chaker Aloui, and Ezzeddine Abaoub. "Long-Range Dependence in Daily Volatility on Tunisian Stock Market." *International Journal of Business*. v10, n3, (2005):191-216.
- Ben Jelili, Riadh. "Performance, Technical Progress and Investment in Tunisian Manufacturing Firms: Evidence from Firm-Level Panel Data." *Journal of Development and Economic Policies*. v7, n2, (June 2005): 5-51.
- Darrat, Ali F., Salah S Abosedra, and Hassan Y.Aly. "Assessing the Role of Financial Deepening in Business Cycles: The Experience of the United Arab Emirates." *Applied Financial Economics*. v15, n7, (April 2005): 447-53.
- Daoud, Yousef. "Gender Gap in Returns to Schooling in Palestine." *Economics of Education Review*, v24, n6, (December 2005): 633-49.
- Egger, Philippe. "The Economics of Peace: Trends and Prospects of the Palestinian Economy and Labour Market." *International Labour Review*. v144, n1, (2005): 31-54.
- Eltony, M. Nagy and Mustafa Babiker. "Arab Capital Markets Development and Institutions." *Middle East Business and Economic Review*. v17, n1 (June 2005): 41-57.
- Erbas, S. Nuri and Frank E. Nothaft. "Mortgage Markets in Middle East and North African Countries: Market Development, Poverty Reduction, and Growth." *Journal of Housing Economics*. v14, n3, (September 2005): 212-41.
- Fielding, David and Anja Shortland. "How Does Political Violence Affect Confidence in a Local Currency? Evidence from Egypt ." *Journal of International Development*, v 17, n 7 (October 2005): 841-66.
- Girma, Sourafel and Abbi Kedir. "Heterogeneity in Returns to Schooling: Econometric Evidence from Ethiopia." *Journal of Development Studies*. v. 41, n. 8 (November 2005):1405-16.
- Hachicha, Nejb. "Banking Sector Controls and Financial Deepening: A Structural Error Correction Model for Tunisia." *Developing Economics*. v43, n2, (June 2005): 265-84.
- Haouas, Ilham, Mahmoud Yagoubi, and Almas Heshmati. "The Impacts of Trade Liberalization on Employment and Wages in Tunisian Industries." *Journal of International Development*. v17, n4, (May 2005): 527-51.
- Islam, Mazhar M. "Linkages between the Financial Sector and the Real Sector in Oman: Evidence from Cointegration and Error Correction Models." *Global Journal of Finance and Economics*. v2, n1, (March 2005):1-21.
- Lejour, Arjan M. and Ruud A de Mooij. "Turkish Delight: Does Turkey's Accession to the EU Bring Economic Benefits?" *Kyklos*. v58, n1, (2005): 87-119.
- Looney, Robert. "The Viability of Economic Shock Therapy in Iraq." *Challenge*. v47, n5, (Sept.-Oct. 2004): 86-103.
- Maghyereh, Aktham and Haitham Al-Zoubi. "Modeling the Dynamic Interdependence of MENA Stock Markets: A Multivariate Analysis." *Journal of Economic Research*. v9, n2, (November 2004): 239-70.
- Mataria, Awad, Cam Donaldson, Stephane Luchini, and Jean-Paul Moatti. "A Stated Preference Approach to Assessing Health Care-Quality Improvements in Palestine: From Theoretical Validity to Policy Implications." *Journal of Health Economics*. v23, n6, (November 2004):1285-1311.
- Metwally, M. M. "Attitudes of Private Firms in GCC Countries towards Employing Indian Nationals: A Case Study." *Indian Development Review*. v3, n1 (June 2005): 29-37.
- Moosa, Imad A.. "Exchange Rate Regime Choice under Hyperinflationary Conditions in a Post-war Situation: The Case of Iraq." *Economia Internazionale/International Economics*. v57, n4, (November 2004): 495-510.
- Peridy, Nicolas. "Toward a Pan-Arab Free Trade Area: Assessing Trade Potential Effects of the Agadir Agreement." *Developing Economics*. v43, n3, (September 2005): 329-45.
- Ramady, Mohamed A. and Mohamed Al-Sahlawi. "Education as a Force for Economic Change in an Oil-Based Economy: A Case Study of Saudi Arabia." *Journal of Energy and Development*. v30, n2, (Spring 2005):187-206.
- Salehi-Esfahani, Hadi . "Alternative Public Service Delivery Mechanisms in Iran." *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*. v45, n2-3, (May 2005):497-525.
- Samad, Abdus; Hassan, Kabir; Ghani, Ahmed Abdul. "Financial Performance of Commercial Banks: A Study of Bahrain Banking." *Middle East Business and Economic Review*. v17, n1, June 2005: 20-28.
- Sekerke, Matt; Hanke, Steve H."A Framework for the ex ante Analysis of Monetary Reforms." *Journal of Policy Reform*. v8, n2, (June 2005): 105-17.
- Selcuk, Faruk. "The Policy Challenge with Floating Exchange Rates: Turkey's Recent Experience." *Open Economics Review*. v16, n3, (July 2005):295-312.
- Strier, Roni. "Gendered Realities of Poverty: Men and Women's Views of Poverty in Jerusalem." *Social Service Review*. v79, n2, (June 2005): 344-67.
- Struyk, Raymond J. "Housing Policy Issues in a Rich Country with High Population Growth: The Case of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia." *Review of Urban and Regional Development Studies*. v17, n2, (July 2005): 140-61.

CALL FOR PAPERS
SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ZAYED UNIVERSITY, DUBAI, UAE, MARCH 2007

We are pleased to inform you that The Middle East Economic Association (MEEA), in association with Zayed University, will hold its 6th International Conference on 14 - 16 March 2007 at Zayed University in Dubai, UAE.

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.

Deadline for abstract submissions is October 30, 2006. Deadline for submission of full papers is January 30, 2007.

You can submit your paper on the conference website: www.zu.ac.ae/meea/meea.aspx. You can also email meea2007@zu.ac.ae for more information. Please see the announcement on page 2 of this newsletter for additional details.

For the latest 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 _____

Telephone: _____

Fax _____

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Send to:
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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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NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17 No. 1, Summer 2006

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