

MEEEA

NEWSLETTER

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

Vol. 14 No. 1

Summer 2003

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Letter from the MEEA Executive Secretary
- 2 Announcements
- 3 Versailles Conference
- 4 Recent Journal Articles



MEEA's Activities Continue to Expand

MEAEA continues to expand its activities and membership. Our official mailing list is creeping up to 1000 with an unusually large increase in the number of dues-paying members in this particular year; the issuance of the newsletter has become semi-annual instead of only annual and has significant coverage of important publication of relevance to the MENA region; the MEEA website (meeaweb.org) has an increasing number of announcements about conferences and research and training activities; the most recent volume (volume 5) of the online journal *Topics in Middle Eastern and North African Economies* has just been published; volume 5 in *Research in Middle East Economics* (on Food and Agriculture in the MENA Region) has already been published and distributed; the annual conferences of MEEA at the ASSA meetings are being better attended with increasing competition to get on the program than ever before; the second international conference of MEEA has just been very successfully concluded in collaboration with the Centre of Economics and Ethics for Environment and Development at the University of Versailles, and plans for the third one, the first to be held in the MENA Region itself (at the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Byblos, Lebanon) are in the final stages of preparation. A publication resulting from the first conference is about to appear and one for the second conference is being planned. MENA-related sessions have been set up at two of the Western

Economic Association summer conferences; key MEEA officers are engaging in and attempting to coordinate with other conferences and groups around the world; several MEEA members have been awarded the Ibn Khaldun prize for best papers submitted to MEEA conferences by young researchers no

Continued on page 4

MEEA's Third Joint International Conference May 27-28, 2004 Lebanese American University, Byblos

Following the success of MEEA's second joint European conference at Versailles this summer, we are pleased to inform you that MEEA will hold its third joint international conference in Lebanon the summer of 2004. The host will be The Lebanese American University- Byblos and the conference chair will be Professor Wassim Shahin. The conference theme and more details will be announced in the next newsletter and will be posted on the MEEA web site soon. Selected articles will be invited for quick reviewing to be included in *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance*. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please contact either Wassim Shahin (wshahin@byblos.lau.edu.lb) or Hassan Hakimian (H.Hakimian@city.ac.uk).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Topic areas, although not exhaustive, encompass: Monetary and fiscal policies; Labor and welfare economics; International trade and finance; Banking; Financial markets and institutions; Financial instability and crisis; Investment and portfolio analysis.

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 three years after receiving Ph.D.) must be received no later than December 1, 2003 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.

MEEA-CHRAF

MEEA's Committee on Human Rights and Academic Freedom (CHRAF) monitors infringements of human rights and academic freedom of economists in the Middle East. For information, please contact Co-Chairs of MEEA-CHRAF, Abbas Alnasrawi or Sohrab Behdad. Professor Alnasrawi may be reached at the Department of Economics, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 054505, USA, email alnasra@moose.uvm.edu Professor Behdad is at the Department of Economics, Denison University, Granville, OH, 43023 US, email behdad@denison.edu.

POSITION OPENINGS IN THE UAE THROUGH GLOBAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP, INC.

Global Research Partnership, Inc., an executive search firm, has been retained by a leading research institute based in the UAE to help them fill three key positions. The most senior position requires at least 10-15 years post doctoral experience, including experience in research administration, and a background in economics, political science, international affairs or related field. The more junior position requires 5-10 years post doctoral experience and a background in economics, social sciences or related field. Arabic is preferred but not required and obviously all candidates should have knowledge of the Gulf region and its economic and social issues.

Please contact Gai Galitzine at gai@grpi.com or fax: 845 623 8763 for more information.

MEEA-UNIVERSITY OF VERSAILLES-SAINT QUENTIN EN YVELINES JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 2003

Despite the worries of war, SARS and strikes, MEEA's Second Joint International Conference hosted by Jacques Charmes at the University of Versailles-Saint Quentin en Yvelines in June 2003 was a rousing success.

The conference was attended by 60 persons, 31 coming from outside of France, 17 from the University of Versailles and 12 from other universities in France. 19 of the participants were young PhD or post/doc students, and 25 (41.7%) were women, and 25 were English speaking. 8 MENA countries were represented, 4 European, as well as the USA and other countries. 31 papers were presented and 4 more were circulated in the absence of their authors who could not attend.

The organizers of the conference are preparing a CD-ROM that will include all papers to be sent to to all participants. For those who were not able to attend, the organizers are currently preparing to publish the conference proceedings. Details of this publication will be included in a future MEEA newsletter.

MEEA would like to thank all those who participated in the conference, but most of all thank Professor Charmes for all of his hard work to make this conference a success. We hope all those who were not able to participate can plan to be in Byblos Lebanon in May of 2004 for our Third Joint International Conference hosted by Lebanese American University, Byblos.

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*.

- Ajluni, Salem. "Report: The Palestinian Economy and the Second Intifada." *Journal of Palestine Studies* v32, n3, Spring 2003, pp. 64-73.
- Akikina, Krishna R. and Al-Hoshan, Hamed. "Independence of Monetary Policy under Fixed Exchange Rates: The Case of Saudi Arabia." *Applied Economics* v35, n4, March 2003, pp. 437-48.
- Al-Faris, A. F. "Public Expenditure and Economic Growth in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries." *Applied Economics* v34, n9, June 2002, pp. 1187-93.
- Arabsheibani, G. Reza and Manfor, Lamine. "From Farashia to Military Uniform: Male-Female Wage Differentials in Libya." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* v50, n4, July 2002, pp. 1007-19.
- Aydogan, Kursat and Geoffrey G. Booth. "Calendar Anomalies in the Turkish Foreign Exchange Markets." *Applied Financial Economics* v13, n5, May 2003, pp. 353-60.
- Bahmani-Oskooee, Mohsen. "Does Black Market Exchange Rate Volatility Deter the Trade Flows? Iranian Experience." *Applied Economics* v34, n18, December 2002, pp. 2249-55.
- Edo, Samson E. "Financial Management Analysis of Contributions of External and Domestic Factors to Foreign Debt Accumulation in Nigeria and Morocco." *Journal of Financial Management and Analysis* v15, n2, July-Dec. 2002, pp. 69-75.
- Eljelly, Abuzar M. A. "Characterizing Saudi Commercial Banks Performance: An Exploratory Factor Analytic Approach." *Middle East Business and Economic Review* v14, n1, July 2002, pp. 43-54.
- Erlat, Haluk. "The Nature of Persistence in Turkish Real Exchange Rates." *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade* v39, n2, March April 2003, pp. 70-97.
- Farsakh, Leila. "Palestinian Labor Flows to the Israeli Economy: A Finished Story?" *Journal of Palestine Studies*, v32, n1, pp13-27.
- Gutner, Tamar. "The Political Economy of Food Subsidy Reform: The Case of Egypt." *Food Policy* v27, n5-6, Oct.-Dec. 2002, pp. 455-76.
- Haddad, Lawrence and Ahmed, Akhter. "Chronic and Transitory Poverty: Evidence from Egypt, 1997-99." *World Development* v31, n1, January 2003, pp. 71-85.
- Harrison, Glenn W., Thomas F. Rutherford, and David G. Tarr. "Trade Liberalization, Poverty and Efficient Equity." *Journal of Development Economics* v71, n1, June 2003, pp 97-128.
- Hassan, M. Kabir and Antoine-Mehanna, Rock. "Is the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) a Successful Trading Bloc?: A Middle Eastern Framework." *Middle East Business and Economic Review* v14, n1, July 2002, pp. 18-28.
- Lloyd, Cathie. "Thinking about the Local and Global in the Algerian Context." *Oxford Development Studies* v30, n2, June 2002, pp. 151-63.
- Lust-Okar, Ellen and Organski, A. F. K. "Coalitions and Conflict: The Case of the Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations over the West Bank." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* v19, n2, Fall 2002, pp. 23-58.
- Mensch, Barbara S., et al. "Gender-Role Attitudes among Egyptian Adolescents" *Studies in Family Planning* v34, n1, March 2003, pp. 8-18.
- Metwally, M. M. and Alhemoud, A. M.. "Determinants of Aggregate GCC Spending on Tourism: A Simultaneous Equations Model." *Middle East Business and Economic Review* v14, n1, July 2002, pp. 1-6.
- Murjan, Waleed and Ruza, Cristina. "The Competitive Nature of the Arab Middle Eastern Banking Markets." *International Advances in Economic Research* v8, n4, November 2002, pp. 267-74.
- Ocal, Nadir. "Are the Military Expenditures of India and Pakistan External Determinants for Each Other: An Empirical Investigation." *Defence and Peace Economics* v14, n2, April 2003, pp. 141-49.
- Omet, Ghassan; Khasawneh, Mohammad; Khasawneh, Jamal. "Efficiency Tests and Volatility Effects: Evidence from the Jordanian Stock Market." *Applied Economics Letters* v9, n12, October 2002, pp. 817-21.
- Ozcan, Yusuf Ziya and Ucdogruk, Senay and Metin Ozcan, Kivilcim. "Evolution of Banking Efficiency within an Unstable Macroeconomic Environment: The Case of Turkish Commercial Banks." *Applied Economics* v34, n18, December 2002, pp. 2289-2301.
- Schiff, Maurice. "FTA, Customs Union or Unilateral Trade Policy? Final Status Options for 'the West Bank and Gaza'." *Journal of Economic Integration* v18, n1, March 2003, pp. 17-41
- Sener, Tulin and E. Mine Cinar. "Risk-Adjusted Performance of Regional Emerging Markets Including Middle East-Africa." *Journal of Emerging Markets* v7, n1, Spring 2002, pp. 36-49.
- Torbat, Akbar. "The Brain Drain from Iran to the United States." *The Middle East Journal* v56, n2, Spring 2002, pp.272-95.
- Valentine, Tom and Magableh, Sohail. "The Protection of Water Quality Using the WTP Method: An Application of the Censored Regression Model to the Water Sector in Amman/Jordan." *Middle East Business and Economic Review* v14, n2, December 2002, pp. 1-19.
- Yousef, Tarik M. "Egypt's Growth Performance under Economic Liberalism: A Reassessment with New GDP Estimates, 1886-1945." *Review of Income and Wealth* v48, n4, December 2002, pp. 561-79.

letter continued from page 1

more than five years beyond receiving the PhD. Please note that we encourage you young scholars to apply for this prize if you have presented a paper in the Versailles summer session or if you are scheduled to present one in San Diego (or last year in Washington).

The Association now has a better-managed, more transparent budget than ever before; MEEA's Board has been expanded to include additional members from outside North America, and progress is being made on MEEA's ability to receive payment of dues and fees via credit card. The first chapter of the organization has been established abroad. I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of the key people responsible for these successes, in particular, Mine Cinar as President of MEEA for the last four years and as editor of *Topics in Middle Eastern and North African Economies*, Bulent Uyar for his most conscientious work as Treasurer, Ward Sayre for his fine leadership in putting together and distributing the newsletter, Jennifer Olmsted as the current Series Editor of RMEE, Hassan Hakimian and Jacques Charmes for their excellent work in organizing the first two international conferences, Wassim Shahin, Salpie Djoundourian and their colleagues at LAU for their activities in setting up the chapter and organizing the third international conference of MEEA, and for initiating the new English language journal *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance* (MEEF), and all the current and recent past Board members who helped in so many of these activities in different ways, and last but not least the many MEEA members who have presented excellent papers and served as discussants at our recent conferences.

Jeffrey B. Nugent, University of Southern California
Executive Secretary

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 _____

Email _____

Send to:
Bulent Uyar
Treasurer, Middle East Economic Association
College of Business Administration
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0129

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**

Board of Directors

Mine Cinar Loyola University President mcinar@luc.edu	Parvin Alizadeh Denison University
Jeffrey Nugent University of Southern California Executive Secretary nugent@rcf.usc.edu	Hassan Hakimian University of London
Bulent Uyar Univ. of Northern Iowa Treasurer uyar@uni.edu	Edward Sayre Agnes Scott College
	Wassim Shahin Lebanese American University
	Tarik Yousef Georgetown University

Past Presidents

Charles Issawi Princetown University 1978-1983	Abbas Alnasrawi University of Vermont 1990-1994
Stanislaw Wellisz Columbia University 1984-1985	Sohrab Behdad Denison University 1995-1996
Manoucher Parvin University of Akron 1986-1989	Fatemeh Moghadam Hofstra University 1997-1999

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 14 No. 1, Summer 2003

Logo Designed by Queen's University, Canada.

Send us news about yourself, other organizations, forthcoming conferences and new publications. Address all communications to the editor:

Edward Sayre
Dept. of Economics
Agnes Scott College
Decatur, GA 30030
esayre@agnesscott.edu