

MEEEA

NEWSLETTER

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

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MEEA Continues to Grow

MEEA is having a good and productive year. We have had two successful conferences in San Diego and Byblos. Also, the design of a very promising program for the upcoming meeting in January 2005 in Philadelphia has just been completed. In addition, membership in MEEA has markedly increased this year and the quantity and quality of paper submissions for conferences are on the rise. Finally, we have managed to establish a “merchant account” to accept dues and submission fees via credit card. This should greatly facilitate our transactions for membership and conference arrangements in the coming years.

The San Diego conference, MEEA 24th Annual Meeting, was held in conjunction with the ASSA meetings Jan 3-5, 2004. The location was, of course, spectacular and treated all attendees to beautiful sunny weather and scenery. As usual, the conference was kicked off by our popular “Poster Session.” This was followed by a special session jointly with the International Society for the New Institutional Economics (ISNIE) on Institutions and Development, and others on Business Cycles, FDI and Trade, Capital and Labor Markets and another popular roundtable on the Challenges of Globalization in the MENA region. The MEEA Business meeting featured the presentation of plaques for the outgoing officers (Mine Cinar and Bulent Uyar) and the announcement that Rania Al-Mashat was the winner of the Ibn Khaldun Prize.

The meeting in Byblos, Lebanon, was the Third International Conference of MEEA. It was held during May 27-28 in collaboration with the Lebanese American University’s School of Business, which was simultaneously holding its Sixth International Conference on the Economics and Finance of the Middle East and North Africa. The conference consisted of panels on Political Economy, Banking and Financial Markets, the Economy of Palestine, Integration, Infrastructure and Regulation, FDI and Exchange Rates and the Economies of North Africa. As usual for the conferences in Byblos, the hospitality was warm and the conference highlighted by an interesting public policy session featuring distinguished officials from the Central Bank, the Arab Banks Association and leading bankers.

For the upcoming 25th Annual Meeting, we had sixty abstract submissions. Given that we have six 2-hour sessions at the meetings—one poster session and five regular ones—the number of papers that we can accept are limited. As a result, the Program Committee had to be very selective to ensure the best quality and match among papers being presented. The poster session helped mitigate the problem somewhat by allowing us to offer an opportunity for presentation in case of many good quality papers that could not be included in the regular sessions. But, even in that case, the available space imposes strict limitations and we had to turn down many potentially good papers.

I would like to end by noting that poster sessions have proven a very effective means of communicating research results in our annual meetings for two reasons. The first is, of course, the fact that poster sessions allow us to accommodate many more papers than the numbers feasible in our regular sessions. The second reason is an interesting feature that differentiates poster sessions from the regular ones: The papers presented in poster sessions have to compete over audience, rather than enjoying a kind of “captive audience” for 15-30 minutes. As a result of this, I expect the poster session presentations to become much more effective and attractive as the authors and the audience become more familiar with the poster system. Of course, traditional sessions have their own values and we will maintain as many of them as possible within ASSA framework.

Details on past conferences are available on the MEEA website (meeaweb.org). The program of the 25th Annual Meeting will appear on the website soon after it has been approved by the ASSA.

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

Hadi Salehi Esfahani
Executive Secretary

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. 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, 2004 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.

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.

SIXTH MEDITERRANEAN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

MARCH 16-20 2005, FLORENCE, ITALY

Deadline July 9, 2004

The Mediterranean Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and the European University Institute in Florence (Italy) is organising the Sixth Mediterranean Social and Political Research (MSPR) Meeting which will take place from 16 - 20 March 2005 in Florence and Montecatini Terme and will bring together about 250 scholars from the Middle East & North Africa (MENA), Europe, and elsewhere. Abstracts and applications are due 9 July 2004.

Serdar Sayan will run a workshop at this meeting, entitled "Corruption and Governance: The Case of MENA and Mediterranean Countries." Empirical studies and survey articles on the incidence of various forms of corruption in MENA countries are particularly welcome. Jeff Nugent, who is collaborating with Ahmed Ghoneim of Cairo University and Noha El-Mikawy of the University of Bonn on the workshop: "Economic Openness and Civic Liberties in the MENA Region" also invites your proposals. For workshop description, call for papers and info on logistics, please visit <http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/Research/Mediterranean/mspr2005/>

You can also contact Lotta Svantesson - Mediterranean Programme Secretary - E-mail: medmeet@iue.it

MANAS UNIVERSITY

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMICS
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 23rd - 24th September 2004**

Manas University is organizing its First International Conference in Economics. This year's theme is "Recent Economic Developments and Problems in the Transition Economies." The Conference will be held at the Manas University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 23rd to 24th September, 2004. It will include plenary and invited presentations, round tables discussions, workshops and oral/poster presentations. Additional information on the conference is available at <http://rifl.manas.kg/conf>. This conference looks to attract a diverse group including women, young academics, and researchers working on emerging and transition economies.

Abstracts should be sent to mbalcilar@manas.kg They may also be sent to: Mehmet Balcilar, Manas University, Department of Economics, Prospect Mira 56, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

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*.

- Abu- Bader, Suleiman and Aamer S. Abu-Qarn. "Government Expenditures, Military Spending and Economic Growth: Causality Evidence from Egypt, Israel, and Syria." *Journal of Policy Modeling* v25, n6-7, September 2003, pp. 567-83.
- Abu-Duhou, Jamileh. "Motherhood As 'an Act of Defiance': Palestinian Women's Reproductive Experience." *Development* v46, n2, June 2003, pp. 85-89.
- Akyuz, Yilmaz and Korkut Boratav. "The Making of the Turkish Financial Crisis." *World Development* v31, n9, September 2003, pp. 1549-66.
- Al-Awad, Mouawiya and Adam B. Elhiraika. "Cultural Effects and Savings: Evidence from Immigrants to the United Arab Emirates." *Journal of Development Studies* v39, n5, June 2003, pp. 139-51.
- Ali, Mohamed M. and John Blacker and Gareth Jones. "Annual Mortality Rates and Excess Deaths of Children under Five in Iraq, 1991-98." *Population Studies* v57, n2, July 2003, pp. 217-26.
- Arin, Kerim Peren and Cagla Okten. "The Determinants of Privatization Prices: Evidence from Turkey." *Applied Economics* v35, n12, August 2003, pp. 1393-1404.
- Ayadi, Mohamed and Jaya Krishnakumar and Mohamed Salah Matoussi. "Pooling Surveys in the Estimation of Income and Price Elasticities: An Application to Tunisian Households." *Empirical Economics* v28, n1, 2003, pp. 181-201.
- De Santis, Roberto A. "The Impact of Customs Union with the European Union on Internal Migration in Turkey." *Journal of Regional Science* v43, n2, May 2003, pp. 349-72.
- Deichmann, Joel and Socrates Karidis and Selin Sayek. "Foreign Direct Investment in Turkey: Regional Determinants." *Applied Economics* v35, n16, November 2003, pp. 1767-78.
- Dhehibi, B. and J.M. Gil. "Forecasting Food Demand in Tunisia under Alternative Pricing Policies." *Food Policy* v28, n2, April 2003, pp. 167-86.
- Dietzenbacher, Erik. "Demand-Pull and Cost-Push Effects of Labor Income in Turkey, 1973-90." *Environment and Planning A* v35, n10, October 2003, pp. 1785-1807.
- Dogruel, Fatma and A. Suut Dogruel and Erinc Yeldan. "Macroeconomics of Turkey's Agricultural Reforms: An Intertemporal Computable General Equilibrium Analysis." *Journal of Policy Modeling* v25, n6-7, September 2003, pp. 617-37.
- Esfahani, Hadi Salehi. "Fatal Attraction: Turkey's Troubled Relationship with the European Union." *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance* v43, n5, Winter 2003, pp. 807-26.
- Fielding, David. "Counting the Cost of the Intifada: Consumption, Saving and Political Instability in Israel." *Public Choice* v116, n3-6, September 2003, pp. 297-312.
- Foltz, Jeremy D. "Economics of Water-Conserving Technology Adoption in Tunisia: An Empirical Estimation of Farmer Technology Choice." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* v51, n2, January 2003, pp. 359-73.
- Ghali, Khalifa. "Government Spending, Budget Financing, and Economic Growth: The Tunisian Experience." *Journal of Developing Areas* v36, n2, Spring 2003, pp. 19-37.
- Haddad, Lawrence and Akhter Ahmed. "Chronic and Transitory Poverty: Evidence from Egypt, 1997-99." *World Development* v31, n1, January 2003, pp. 71-85.
- Isik, Ihsan and M. Kabir Hassan. "Financial Disruption and Bank Productivity: The 1994 Experience of Turkish Banks." *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance* v43, n2, Summer 2003, pp. 291-320.
- Naderi, A. and J. Mace. "Education and Earnings: A Multilevel Analysis: A Case Study of the Manufacturing Sector in Iran." *Economics of Education Review* v22, n2, April 2003, pp. 143-56.
- Neumayer, Eric. "What Factors Determine the Allocation of Aide by Arab Countries and Multilateral Agencies?" *Journal of Development Studies* v39, n4, April 2003, pp. 134-47.
- Ozcan, Gul Berna and Murat Cokcezen. "Limits to Alternative Forms of Capitalization: The Case of Anatolian Hold Companies." *World Development* v31, n12, December 2003, pp. 2061-84.
- Pamukcu, Teoman. "Trade Liberalization and Innovation Decisions of Firms: Lessons from Post - 1980 Turkey." *World Development* v31, n8, August 2003, pp. 1443-58.
- Riddle, Liesl A. and Kate Gillespie. "Information Sources for New Ventures in the Turkish Clothing Export Industry." *Small Business Economics* v20, n1, February 2003, pp. 105-20.
- Ruppert Blumer, Elizabeth. "The Impact of Israeli Border Policy on the Palestinian Labor Market." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* v51, n3, April 2003, pp. 657-76.
- Somel, Cem. "Estimating the Surplus in the Periphery: An Application to Turkey." *Cambridge Journal of Economics* v27, n6, November 2003, pp. 919-33.
- Sayan, Serdar "H-O for H2O: Can the Heckscher-Ohlin Framework Explain the Role of Free Trade in Distributing Scarce Water Resources around the Middle East?" *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance* v1, n3, December 2003, pp. 215-30
- Zind, Richard G. "On Oil and Manufacturing in the Arabian Gulf Nations." *Journal of Energy and Development* v28, n2, Spring 2003, pp. 189-206.

ARIT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS 2005-2006

The American Research Institute in Turkey announces the ARIT Fellowships for Research in Turkey, 2005 - 2006. Fellowships are offered for research in ancient, medieval, or modern times, in any field of the humanities and social sciences. Post-doctoral and advanced doctoral fellowships may be held for various terms, from two to three months up to terms of a year. Stipends range from \$4,000 to \$16,000.

The American Research Institute in Turkey is a non-profit academic organization founded in 1964 for the purpose of supporting research and promoting scholarly exchange in Turkey. The deadline is November 1, 2004. Please see the following website for a full description of the programs available. <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ARIT> For further information, please contact: American Research Institute in Turkey, University of Pennsylvania Museum, 3260 South Street, Philadelphia PA 19104-6324

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

Telephone: _____

Fax _____

Email _____

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

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