

MEEEA

NEWSLETTER

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Letter from the MEEA Executive Secretary

Two thousand and seven has so far been an action-packed year for the MEEA. The 27th Annual Conference in January in Chicago was a great success. We experimented with pre-ASSA sessions in Chicago and organized two, well-attended sessions on January 4, one day prior to the opening of the ASSA meetings. We held these sessions at the Loyola University of Chicago, thanks to an invitation extended and logistic support provided by Mine Cinar, where we received a warm welcome from Dean Abol Jalilvand of the School of Business Administration. These two sessions complemented six sessions we held in the ASSA meeting slots provided by the American Economic Association. We also had an excellent dinner-lecture event at Reza's Restaurant, where we had a chance to listen to and get inspired by Jeff Nugent's presentation entitled "Explaining Growth in the Middle East and North Africa" which was also a sneak preview of the recently published volume by the same title he and Hashem Pesaran edited. In addition, the dinner gave us a chance to thank Jeff once again for his service on the Board of MEEA and his leadership as our President between 2004 and 2007.

As many of you are aware, we have recently finalized the program for the 28th Annual Conference that will begin on January 3, 2008, one day before the ASSA meetings, in New Orleans. We have received many abstracts and had a difficult time choosing

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ANNOUNCING

MEEA SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY

Famagusta, North Cyprus

May 29-30, 2008

The main goal of this conference is to bring together distinguished economists, economists early in their careers, and students from all over the world for the purpose of exchanging ideas, data, research findings and policy solutions to common problems in the Middle East and North Africa. Themes of particular interest to the conference organizers include labor economics, international finance and trade, monetary policy and economic development. A call for papers with details about the conference will appear soon at www.meeaweb.org. Deadlines for abstracts will be **November 15th, 2007**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Letter

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the most promising papers to be presented at the meetings. At the end, we have accepted 27 papers for presentation in 5 pre-ASSA sessions that we will have at the University of New Orleans on January 3. I am thankful to Kabir Hassan for helping us get rooms for these sessions. The rest of the accepted papers will be presented in 4 regular sessions plus a poster session on the first and second days of the ASSA meetings. One of these sessions has been proposed by Nader Kabbani and includes four very interesting papers on youth employment issues in the MENA region. I am looking forward to seeing all authors of accepted papers in New Orleans in January.

We had our 6th International Meetings, March 14-16, 2007 at Zayed University in Dubai where almost a hundred papers were presented and preparations are well under way for the 7th International Meetings to be held at Eastern Mediterranean University in North Cyprus in late May next year. I urge you all to watch for further information about the meetings on the MEEA web page and send in your proposals for papers to be presented at this conference which, I think, promises to be a great one.

Finally, I would like to share with you the good news about our associated journals. Selected papers from the 27th Annual Conference in Chicago and the 5th International Conference held in Sousse, Tunisia last year were already published in volume 9 of our on-line journal, *Topics in Middle Eastern and North African Economies*. Volume 9 appeared ahead of time and is already accessible at <http://www.luc.edu/orgs/meea/volume9/meea9.html>. The *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance* (RMEEF), the other associated journal whose publication was terminated by Taylor and Francis after volume 3 appeared in 2005, is coming back. Thanks to efforts of Wassim Shahin, the founding editor, the Berkeley Electronic Press agreed to take over the publication of RMEEF. The journal now has a new editorial team led by Ghassan Dibeh of Lebanese American University and needs all the support that the MEEA members can provide as submitters of high quality papers, conscientious and prompt reviewers and, of course, attentive readers who would give the editorial team necessary feedback to continuously improve the journal's quality. I for one am looking forward to volume 4 to be published by the new publisher and invite all members to contribute to RMEEF in all capacities.

I hope to see you in New Orleans and North Cyprus in 2008.

Serdar Sayan
TOBB University of Economics and Technology

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 10, 2007** at the following address: Professor 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.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBALIZATION IN THE ARAB WORLD

AMMAN, JORDAN FEB. 3-4, 2008

Profound changes have been taking place over the past two decades in the global business, economic and political environments. Such changes have swept through almost every region and country in the world. However, the impact of these developments and the main advances in the Arab World remain largely unexplored and under-researched. The conference invites innovative and high-quality theoretical, empirical and policy contributions from academics and policy-makers from both the developed and developing world which focus on one of the three tracks of the conference: the impact of globalization and economic reforms, financial aid and democratization in the Middle East, North Africa and neighboring regions.

Authors are invited to submit an extended abstract of 1,000 words by **15 September 2007**. The abstract should include a brief background to the topic, aims and objectives of the work and how it contributes to the relevant conference track.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically by e-mail to globconf@mmu.ac.uk. See the details of the call for papers at <http://www.business.mmu.ac.uk/cibi/globconf/overview.php>.

AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN TURKEY RESEARCH GRANTS

Support for scholars and advanced graduate students engaged in research on ancient, medieval, or modern times in Turkey in any field of the humanities and social sciences. Stipends generally range from \$4,000 to \$16,000 for residencies of two months to one year. Hostel, research, and study facilities are available at ARIT's branch centers in Istanbul and Ankara. E-mail: leinwand@sas.upenn.edu See <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ARIT/ARITFellowships.htm> for details.

Deadline **Nov. 1, 2007**

Contact: Nancy Leinwand, Executive Director University of Pennsylvania Museum 33rd and Spruce Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-6324 215/898-3474

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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.

- Addi, Lahouari. 2006. "The Political Contradictions of Algerian Economic Reforms." *Review of African Political Economy* 33, no. 108: 207-217.
- Agenor, Pierre-Richard, Nabli, Mustapha K., Yousef, Tarik, and Henning Tarp Jensen. 2007. "Labor Market Reforms, Growth, and Unemployment in Labor-Exporting Countries in the Middle East and North Africa." *Journal of Policy Modeling* 29, no. 2: 277-309.
- Arcand, Jean-Louis, Ai, Chunrong, and Francois Ethier. 2007. "Moral Hazard and Marshallian Inefficiency: Evidence from Tunisia." *Journal of Development Economics* 83, no. 2: 411-445.
- Asfaw, Abay. 2006. "The Role of Food Price Policy in Determining the Prevalence of Obesity: Evidence from Egypt." *Review of Agricultural Economics* 28, no. 3: 305-312.
- Barsoum, Ghada. 2006. "Who Gets Credit? The Gendered Division of Microfinance Programs in Egypt." *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* 27, no. 1: 51-64.
- Boughrara, Adel. 2007. "Can Tunisia Move to Inflation Targeting?." *Developing Economics* 45, no. 1: 27-62.
- Dagdeviren, Hulya. 2006. "Revisiting Privatization in the Context of Poverty Alleviation: The Case of Sudan." *Journal of International Development* 18, no. 4: 469-488.
- Dayioglu, Meltem, and Cem Baslevant. 2006. "Imputed Rents and Regional Income Inequality in Turkey: A Subgroup Decomposition of the Atkinson Index." *Regional Studies* 40, no. 8: 889-905.
- Eid, Florence. 2006. "Private Equity Finance as a Growth Engine: What It Means for Emerging Markets." *Business Economics* 41, no. 3: 7-22.
- Elbehri, Aziz, and Thomas Hertel. 2006. "A Comparative Analysis of the EU-Morocco FTA vs. Multilateral Liberalization." *Journal of Economic Integration* 21, no. 3: 496-525.
- El-Hamidi, Fatma. 2006. "General or Vocational Schooling? Evidence on School Choice, Returns, and 'Sheepskin' Effects from Egypt 1998." *Journal of Policy Reform* 9, no. 2: 157-176.
- Esfahani, Hadi Salehi, and Lyn Squire. 2007. "Explaining Trade Policy in the Middle East and North Africa." *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance* 46, no. 5: 660-684.
- Guetat, Imene. 2006. "The Effects of Corruption on Growth Performance of the MENA Countries." *Journal of Economics and Finance* 30, no. 2: 208-221.
- Harrigan, Jane, Wang, Chengang, and Hamed El-Said. 2006. "The Economic and Political Determinants of IMF and World Bank Lending in the Middle East and North Africa." *World Development* 34, no. 2: 247-270.
- Jaeger, David A., and M. Daniele Paserman. 2006. "Israel, the Palestinian Factions, and the Cycle of Violence." *American Economic Review* 96, no. 2: 45-45.
- Kara, Hakan, Kucuk-Tuger, Hande, Ozlale, Umit, Tuger, Burc, and Eray M. Yucl. 2007. "Exchange Rate Regimes and Pass-Through: Evidence from the Turkish Economy." *Contemporary Economic Policy* 25, no. 2: 206-225.
- Kia, Amir. 2006. "Deficits, Debt Financing, Monetary Policy and Inflation in Developing Countries: Internal or External Factors? Evidence from Iran." *Journal of Asian Economics* 17, no. 5: 879-903.
- Konan, Denise Eby, and Keith E. Maskus. 2006. "Quantifying the Impact of Services Liberalization in a Developing Country." *Journal of Development Economics* 81, no. 1: 142-162.
- La Rovere, Roberto, Aw-Hassan, Aden, Turkelboom, Francis, and Richard Thomas. 2006. "Targeting Research for Poverty Reduction in Marginal Areas of Rural Syria." *Development and Change* 37, no. 3: 627-648.
- Magableh, Sohail, and Tom Valentine. 2005. "The Price Elasticity of the Demand for Water in Jordan." *Middle East Business and Economic Review* 17, no. 2: 1-12.
- Mansouri, Brahim. 2007. "Speed of Adjustment, Sequencing and Outcomes of Macroeconomic Stabilization and Structural Reforms in Morocco: A Political Economy Analysis." *Journal of Development and Economic Policies* 9, no. 1: 101-150.
- Mehrara, Mohsen. 2007. "Energy-GDP Relationship for Oil-Exporting Countries: Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia." *OPEC Review* 31, no. 1: 1-16.
- Mesnard, Alice, and Martin Ravallion. 2006. "The Wealth Effect on New Business Startups in a Developing Economy." *Economica* 73, no. 291: 367-392.
- Omran, Mohammed. 2007. "Privatization, State Ownership, and Bank Performance in Egypt." *World Development* 35, no. 4: 714-733.
- Page, John. 2007. "Boom, Bust, and the Poor: Poverty Dynamics in the Middle East and North Africa, 1970-1999." *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance* 46, no. 5: 832-851.
- Quer, Diego, and Enrique Claver. 2007. "Determinants of Spanish Foreign Direct Investment in Morocco." *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade* 43, no. 2: 19-32.

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BETWEEN EMPIRE AND NATION STATES: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN THE ECONOMIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

Call for papers for a session proposed by Jacob Metzger, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, msmetzer@mscc.huji.ac.il, and Şevket Pamuk, Bogaziçi University, Istanbul, pamuks@ttnet.net.tr, to the XVth World Economic History Congress, Utrecht, The Netherlands, August 3 to 7, 2009 www.wehc2009.org

The Middle East passed through two great transitions in the 20th Century. The first one was the demise of the Ottoman Empire and its replacement by European rule over a good part of the region in the aftermath of WWI, and the second was the post WWII transition from foreign (colonial) rule to statehood. These two transitions should provide us with useful anchors for comparatively examining dimensions of continuity and change in the economies of the greater Middle East (including North Africa, parts of which were occupied by European states before WWI) over the period concerned.

See full call for papers at www.meeaweb.org.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

The **MEEA Newsletter** has moved. The editor is now at the University of Southern Mississippi, so please direct all correspondence to Edward Sayre, Dept of Political Science and International Development, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39406. edward.sayre@usm.edu

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 MEEA country. Payments can now be made via check or credit card. Be sure to include credit card number and expiration date if paying by credit card.

Name: _____

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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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