Jointly present

The 14th Middle East Economic Association’s International Conference

INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR TRANSITIONAL MENA COUNTRIES

Yassmine Hammamet Tunisia
March 23-25
The 14th Middle East Economic Association’s International conference

«INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR TRANSITIONAL MENA COUNTRIES»

Yassmine Hammamet Tunisia
March 23-25
Conference topics

The need for a new era of inclusion has been starkly highlighted by the social unrest that started in some countries of MENA region in 2011 and has since reverberated across the globe. The common thread throughout all these events is the demand for more inclusive growth with respect to equal opportunities, participatory voice and shared prosperity. This appeal creates an opportunity in many countries for citizens and policy makers to rethink and retool development strategies to foster more efficient economic growth. Until now, rarely had young people been able to adequately engage in public policy debate about their own future, often resulting in continued frustration.

How can we develop an economic strategy that would assure greater access to opportunities for people of all socioeconomic strata?

Inclusive growth, which is defined as economic growth that results in a wider access to sustainable socioeconomic opportunities for the majority, while protecting the vulnerable, all being done in an environment of fairness, equality and political plurality, can be achieved by transforming economies of the region into market-oriented value chains that provide goods and services to local, regional and global markets.

The strategic geographic location of the region, and especially for its Mashreq and Maghreb sub-regions with their institutional and infrastructural connections with European Union, suggests that trade and investment links with Europe should provide a promising path to shared prosperity for these countries.

Structured in these large contexts, The Tunis Business School and the MENA Youth Policy Research Center will host the 14th MEEA International conference Inclusive Growth for Transitional MENA countries, March 23th-25th, 2015 in Tunisia. A round table working
lunch will be organized during the conference days on “How to improve quality of research for young researchers”. The conference will focus on the following components which can be considered as key drivers for inclusive growth:

1. Employment Job creation for inclusiveness
2. Entrepreneurship and inclusive growth
3. Innovation, R&D and Technology
4. Structural transformation, Industry and SMEs and broad-based growth
5. Education sector and human capital
6. Debt, Financial inclusion, Microfinance, Behavioral
7. Trade Investment and Regional Integration
8. Measuring growth, poverty, and inequality
9. Non-discrimination, social inclusion and participation for inclusive growth
10. Regional and Gender Disparity and Inclusive Growth
11. Institution, governance and inclusive development
12. Agriculture, food Security and Adaptation
### MEEA Program Committee

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<tr>
<td>Hassan ALY</td>
<td>President, MEEA</td>
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<td>Mine CINAR</td>
<td>Loyola University Chicago, ex-President and MEEA Summer Program Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward SAYRE</td>
<td>Treasurer, MEEA</td>
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<td>Fatma DORGUEL</td>
<td>Ex-President, MEEA</td>
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<td>Shawkat HAMMOUDAH</td>
<td>Board member, MEEA</td>
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<td>Nathalie HELMI</td>
<td>Board member, MEEA</td>
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### MYPRC Program Committee

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<td>Nizar JOUINI</td>
<td>Associate professor, FSJEG Tunisia</td>
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<td>Faycel ZIDI</td>
<td>Associate professor, ESSEC Tunisia</td>
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<td>Ahmed MOUMMI</td>
<td>Senior Economist, Research Department, AFDB</td>
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### Local Organizing Committee

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<td>Nizar JOUINI</td>
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Organizing Institutions

**Middle East Economic Association**
http://meeaweb.org/

The MEEA is a private, non-profit, non-political organization of scholars interested in the study of the economies and economics of the Middle East. The geographical term "Middle East" is used in its widest usage. Its objectives shall be: promotion of high standard scholarship, facilitation of communication among scholars through meetings and publications, and promotion of cooperation among persons and organizations committed to the objectives of MEEA.

**MENA-Youth Policy Research Center**
http://mena-yprc.org/

The MYPCR is an independent nonprofit organization, emanating from the initiative of young economic policy researchers from the MENA region. The organization operates for empowerment of Youth within the context of economic policy research and advocacy, through the following main objectives: (i) enhance the capacity of youth to conduct policy-relevant economic research. (ii) Promote the application of these researches within the policy context. (iii) Provide solid foundation for graduates interested in a policy and research careers. (iv) Prepare graduates for future PhD studies and/or policy and development careers.
Supporting Institutions

**Silatech**
http://www.silatech.com/home
Silatech is a dynamic social initiative that works to create jobs and expand economic opportunities for young people throughout the Arab world. We promote large-scale job creation, entrepreneurship, access to capital and markets, and the participation and engagement of young people in economic and social development. Founded in 2008 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, we find innovative solutions to challenging problems, working with a wide spectrum of NGOs, governments and the private sector to foster sustainable, positive change for Arab youth.

**International Development Research Centre**
http://www.idrc.ca/
(IDRC) is a Canadian Crown corporation established by an act of Parliament in 1970 to help developing countries find solutions to their problems. We encourage and support researchers and innovators in those countries to find practical, long-term solutions to the social, economic, and environmental problems their societies face. Our goal is to find ways to reduce poverty, improve health, support innovation, and safeguard the environment. We often work with other Canadian government departments and agencies on programs of mutual interest that are aligned with Canadian values and government priorities. Many of these initiatives create opportunities for researchers from Canada and the developing world to collaborate on research of common interest. Most of IDRC's funding comes from annual appropriations from Canada's Parliament. IDRC also receives funds from other sources, such as foundations and other Canadian and international organizations that support international development or fund research. IDRC is guided by an international Board of Governors. We report to Canada's Parliament through the Minister of International Development and Minister for La Francophone.
MEEA Members Biographies

Hassan Y. Aly joined the Ohio State faculty in 1989 after spending a year at Alexandria University and two years visiting at Southern Illinois University. He is Faculty Associate to the Middle East Studies Center (1992-Present); Faculty Associate to the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy (1999-Present); Co-editor of the African Development Review (2009-2011) and Middle East Business and Economic Review (2002-2010). Dr. Aly is a research fellow of the Economic Research Forum and is on the editorial board of the Journal of Development and Economic Policies and the International Journal of Applied Business and Economics Research. In 2004, he was elected to the executive board of the Middle East Economics Association and gone through the ranks to become Treasurer, Executive Secretary, and currently leading the association in his first term as president.

Dr. Aly applies his research to developing countries in general and the Middle East countries in particular. In addition to teaching at The Ohio State University, Dr. Aly taught, researched, and consulted in many countries in the Middle East including Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, and Tunisia. Most recently, Dr. Aly served as a Chief Research Economist, and lead Economist at the African Development Bank (2009-2011). He has over forty publications in national and international journals (AER, REStat, EDCC, World Development, and Applied Economics, among others).

Fatma Dogruel is a Professor of Economics at Marmara University (Istanbul) since 1996. She is currently the executive secretary of the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA). She received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in mathematics from Hacettepe University, and the PhD degree in agricultural economics from Cukurova University. Among the awards she has received are the Turkish Social Sciences Association Award for Encouraging Young Social Scientists (1987), Sedat Simavi Foundation Price in Social Sciences (1990), and the Ford Foundation Research Award (1991). Her main research areas are development economics, Turkish economic history of the Republican Era and regional economics. She is the coauthor of the following books: “Economic Growth Structural Change and Crisis in Turkey (1990),” “From Ottoman to Present TEKEL (2000),” “Knife Edge Growth and Stabilization (2006),” “The History of Inflation in Turkey (2006),” and “Sectoral Overview of Turkish Industry (2008).” Her last book is titled as “Regional Development and Development Agencies (2012).” Her other publications focus on economic growth and regional economic issues in middle income countries from different geographies including the MENA region.
Aysit Tansel is a professor of Economics at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara. She received her BS from Middle East Technical University with high honors, her MA from University of Minnesota and her Ph.D. from the State University of New York. She was a post-doctoral fellow at Yale University and a Fulbright fellow at Cornell University. She is a research fellow of IZA in Bonn and ERF in Cairo. She is in editorial board of numerous journals including Economics of Education Review, Equality Diversity and Inclusion, Turnalar Uluslararası Türk Dili Edebiyat ve Çeviri Dergisi and İktisat İşletme ve Finans.

Jeff Nugent is a Development Economist at USC who has worked on a wide variety of issues, problems and analytical techniques and in and on a variety of countries from Latin America, Africa, South and East Asia and especially the Middle East and North Africa. In recent years, much of it has made use of new institutional economics and political economy perspectives. Among his most recent research interests are the measurement, determinants and effects of rigidity in labor regulations, trade and economic integration, and the effects of natural resources on institutions, volatility and growth, and peace and trade.
Round Table

How to improve quality of research for young researchers in social sciences

Moderator: Paul Dyer (Senior Analyst, Silatech)

Objective

States an overview of the major constraints that young researchers are facing, in particular in the Arab world.

Discuss the importance of policy-related research for policy makers.

Sensitize stake holders the importance of policy-related research and encourage them to be involved.

Come out with recommendations to improve the quality of policy-related research and policy briefs

Organization

This round table will start with interventions fitting with the theme of each sessions as indicated below. At the end of each session discussions will be initiated among all participants. We suggested four sessions as following:

1. Overview of constraints: (20 minutes)

How to improve research quality and link young researchers to useful research agenda: Jeff Nugent (MEEA Association)

The point of view of PhD student: Hajer Kratou (PhD student, Polytechnic Institute) and Mohamed Kadria (PhD student, Grenoble University)
2. Challenges to undertake policy oriented research: (30 minutes)

Work program and deadlines: Habib Zitouna (Director, ITCEQ)

Viewpoint of the administration: Fekher Zaibi (Director, ONEQ)

The role of the private sector: Majdi HASSEN (Executive director, IACE)

3. Discussion (30 minutes)
Mohammed Haddar (President, ASECTU)
Claude Berthomieu (President, CEMAFI international)

4. Solutions in the Arab World: (20 minutes)

The Arab Youth Initiative: Iris Boutros (Senior Program Specialist, IDRC)

The PPP in research, Tunisia: Nizar Jouini (President, MYPRC)

Concluding Remarks (Edward Sayre, MEEA)
### MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<td>10:00-10:45</td>
<td>Opening Session</td>
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### TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015

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<td>Plenary Session II</td>
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<td>11:00-12:30</td>
<td>Session 7 : Round Table</td>
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### Session 10
**Labor market institutions and youth unemployment in MENA countries**

### Session 11
**Fiscal institutions, governance, corruption and inclusive development**

### Session 12
**Unemployment, wages and regional issues**

### Session 13
**Renewable Energy and Economic growth**

### Session 14
**Exchange rates, stock market performance**

### Session 15
**Cercle des économistes tunisiens Economic reforms in Tunisia; implementation and constraints**

### Session 16
**Debt, financial and monetary policies and growth in MENA region**

### Session 17
**Innovation, R&D and technology**

### Session 18
**Monetary Policies and macroeconomic issues**

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>9:00-10:30</td>
<td>Debit, financial and monetary policies and growth in MENA region</td>
<td>Innovation, R&amp;D and technology</td>
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<td>10:45-12:30</td>
<td>Plenary Session III: Awards ceremony and closing</td>
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Conference Program

Monday, March 23rd, 2015

8:30 - 10:00 Registration: Hotel LAICO HAMMAMET

10:00 - 12:30 Opening and Plenary Session 1 (Carthage room)

Welcome Remarks: Nizar Jouini (FSJEG and MYPRC)
Hassan Aly (Ohio State University and MEEA)
Paul Dyer (Silatech)

Key Note Speaker: Hadi Salehi Esfahany (University of Illinois, USA)
Women's Economic Participation and Inclusive Growth

12:30 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00 Parallel Sessions

Parallel Session 1 (Utique room): Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA's Middle Class Report)

Chairperson: Hassan Aly (Ohio State University and MEEA)

Speakers: Khaled Abu Ismail (ESCWA)

Arab Middle Class Measurement and role in driving change
Discussant: Hadi Salehi Esfahany (University of Illinois, USA),
Karen Pfeifer (Smith College, USA) and Edward A. Sayre (University of Southern Mississippi, USA)
Parallel Session 2 (Bulla Regia room): Various employment issues in the Maghreb countries and Egypt

Chairperson: Moahamed Trabelsi (Dubai Economic Council, UAE)

3. Sirine Mnif: Impact of Technological Changes on access to employment in Tunisia.

Parallel Session 3 (Dougga room): Entrepreneurship and inclusive growth

Chairperson: Mine Cinar (Loyola University Chicago, USA)


16:00 - 16:15 Coffee Break
16:15 - 17:45 Parallel Sessions

Parallel Session 4 (Utique room): Banking sector, microfinance institutions and stock market

Chairperson: Philippe Adair (University Paris Est Créteil, France)

1. Philippe Adair and Imen Berguiga: The interest rates and performance of MFIs in the MENA region: is there a link?
3. Imed Eddine Cherabi: On the behavior of the Tunisian stock market evidence from an artificial neural network model.

Parallel Session 5 (Dougga room): Non discrimination, social inclusion and participation for inclusive growth

Chairperson: Bob Rijkers (The World Bank)

1. Ali Abboud and Jeffery Nugent: How do political changes, demographics, relative Income and religious affiliation affect socio-political attitudes in the Middle East?
4. Zühal Özbay Das: Economic Insecurity Level in Turkey.
Parallel Session 6 (Bulla Regia room): Various sectoral issues from the selected MENA countries

Chairperson: Ali T. Akarca (University of Illinois at Chicago, USA)

2. Wafa Mallek: Les déterminants spatiaux et extra spatiaux de l'innovation technologique et non technologique dans les entreprises de service.

Tuesday, March 24th, 2015

9:00 - 10:45 Plenary Session 2 (Carthage room)

Moderator: Mustapha Kamel Nabli (NABES Lab, Tunisia)


10:45 - 11:00 Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30 Parallel Sessions

Parallel Session 7 (round table) (Utique room): How to improve quality of research for young researchers in social sciences

Chairperson: Paul Dyer (Silatech)


Parallel Session 8 (Bulla Regia room): Human capital: education and health issues

Chairperson: Edward Sayre (University of Southern California, USA)

3. Salwa Trabelsi: Public spending on education, governance and educational outcomes in the MENA countries.

Parallel Session 9 (Dougga room): Inclusive development and socials transfers

Chairperson: Karen Pfeifer (Smith College Northampton, USA)

1. Abeer Rashdan: Inclusive maybe but Elusive definitely.
2. Sondess Fadhloun: Analyse descriptive multi variée de la demande de l'assurance maladie : cas de la Tunisie.
3. Ines Trojette: Determinants of conditional convergence of the MENA region towards the EURO zone: empirical investigation.
4. **Salwa Thabet Mekky:** Women Empowerment in the Arab Region: Between the Anvil of Illiteracy and the Hammer of Passive Representative Bureaucracy.

5. **Mohamed Ayadi et Vincent Castel:** Gains potentiels d'efficiences des procédures de ciblage social directs des pauvres au Maroc.

**12:30 - 14:30 Lunch**

**14:30 - 16:00 Parallel Sessions**

**Parallel Session 10 (Utique room): Labor market institutions and youth unemployment in MENA countries**

Chairperson: Mohamed Ayadi (ISG Tunis, Tunisia)

1. **Edward Sayre, Nada Abdelkader Benmansour and Samantha Constant:** School to work transition for Qatari youth.
2. **Hedi Salehi Esfahany, Roksana Bahramitash and Bin Lin:** Labor Market Institutions, Employment, and Gender in MENA Countries.
3. **Majid Taghavi and Mohammad Farzanegan:** Youth unemployment and investment: Does oil dependency matter?
4. **Mohamed Goaied, Damyana Bakardzhieva and Bassem Kamar:** Determinants of Employment in the MENA Region: The Role of Governments.

**Parallel Session 11 (Dougga room): Fiscal institutions, governance, corruption and inclusive development**

Chairperson: Claude Berthomieu (University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, France)

1. **Islam Abdelbary:** Governance matters and economic growth in Egypt: Empirical evidence after the revolution.


**Parallel Session 12 (Bulla Regia room): Unemployment, wages and regional issues**

Chairperson: Taoufik Rajhi (African Development Bank)


3. Fatma Dogruel, A. Suut Dogruel and Yasemin Ozerkek: Structural change and regional unemployment in Turkey.

4. Ali T. Akarca and Aysıt Tansel: Southwest as the new internal migration destination in Turkey.

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee Break

16:15 - 17:45 Parallel Sessions

**Parallel Session 13 (Utique room): Renewable Energy and Economic growth**

Chairperson: Bassem Kamar (International University of Monaco)

1. Manel Kammoun and Mohamed Benamar: The impact of renewable energy on economic growth: evidence from a panel of emerging countries.
2. **Maha Harbaoui Zrelli**: Renewable energy, non renewable energy, carbon emissions and economic growth in selected Mediterranean countries.

3. **Emna Omri and Nouri Chtourou**: Barriers to the transition to renewable energies in MENA region: a case study of a CSP project in Tunisia.

4. **Assaad Ghazouani and Nidham Ghazouani**: Le potentiel des énergies renouvelables en Tunisie et son impact sur la croissance économique.

**Parallel Session 14 (round table) (Douissa room): Cercle des économistes tunisiens: Economic reforms in Tunisia, implementation and constraints**

Moderator: Taoufik Rajhi (Afrian Development Bank)

Speakers:  
Mongi Boughzala (FSEG Tunis, Tunisia)  
Mohamed Haddar (President ASECTU, Tunisia)  
Salma Zouari (IHEC Tunis, Tunisia)  
Hamadi Fehri (IHEC Tunis, Tunisia)

**Parallel Session 15 (Bulla Regia room): Exchange rates, stock market performance**

Chairperson: Chahir Zaki (Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, Egypt)

1. **Mourad Zmami and Oussama Ben Salha**: The adjustment of plant-level investment to exchange rate fluctuations in Tunisia.

2. **Fathi Abid, Mourad Mrouta et Salah Bahloul**: Stochastic dominance relationship and shock transmission between MENA countries' GDP growth and stock market performance.

3. **Fathi Ayachi, Refka Selmi and Nadia Dridi**: Forecasting Tunisian exchange rate volatility: Better paths via multivariate GARCH models.
4. Abderrezak Benhabib and Kamel Si Mohammed: Exchange Rate Pass-Through in Algeria.

**Wednesday, March 25th, 2015**

**9:00 - 10:30 Parallel Sessions**

**Parallel Session 16 (Utique room): Debt, financial and monetary policies and growth in MENA region**

Chairperson: Jeffery Nugent (University of Southern California, USA)

4. Houyem Chekk:

**Parallel Session 17 (Bulla Regia room): Innovation, R&D and technology**

Chairperson: Fatma DogrueL (Marmara University, Istanbul)

1. Rahim Kallal: Impact of ICT on the labor productivity: econometric modeling and analysis on data panel: Case of MENA countries.
2. Ines Ben Dkhil: Investment in fixed broadband networks and access regulation in developed and developing countries; panel data applications.
3. Ines Ben Dkhil: Computing an overall Index for regulatory reforms required in the fixed telecommunication segment over the world.
4. **Hella Bani Baghdadi and Sami Aouadi**: Technological diversification on North-South innovation systems: The case study of Mediterranean countries.

**Parallel Session 18 (Dougra room): Monetary policies and macroeconomic issues**

Chairperson: Chahir Zaki (Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, Egypt)

1. **Yosra Baaziz**: What can nonlinear Taylor rule say about the Egyptian monetary policy conduct?

**10:30 - 10:45 Coffee Break**

**10:45 - 12:30 Plenary Session 3: Awards Ceremony and Closing**

(Carthage room)

**12:30 - 14:30 Lunch**
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Yassmine Hammamet Tunisia
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