Two thousand eight has been a vibrant year in terms of conference activities of the MEEA. We had more sessions in both the winter meetings in New Orleans and the summer meetings in North Cyprus.

In the winter meetings, we faced another cut in the number of our ASSA sessions in New Orleans again, but the increase in the number of pre-ASSA sessions we put together more than compensated for the ASSA session we lost. The 28th Annual Conference was, in fact, the first conference where we had parallel pre-ASSA sessions. These five pre-ASSA sessions complemented the five ASSA sessions that we organized in the slots provided by the American Economic Association and were held at the University of New Orleans, thanks to Kabir Hassan’s help.

Our 7th International Conference held May 29-31 at the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) in North Cyprus was also a great success. The meetings were attended by more than 150 economists from 18 different countries and around a hundred papers were presented, including papers presented in student sessions. North Cyprus meetings turned out to be very enjoyable for everyone, thanks to the hard work that local organization committee headed by Dr. Gulcay Tuna-Paylaslioglu put in. In addition to nicely organized sessions, everyone had a good time at receptions and dinners, the venues of which I had visited prior to the meetings. I just loved the venues that I visited during my trip to the island in December 2007 but they were much nicer in May, thanks to the beautiful weather.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 10th, 2008 at the following address: Prof. Jeffrey B. Nugent, Dept. of Economics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0253, USA. (email: nugent@usc.edu). The entries will be evaluated by a three person committee.

THE ROUTLEDGE CURZON POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA SERIES

EDITED BY HASSAN HAKIMIAN, CITY UNIVERSITY, LONDON

Since its launch in 2003, the Series has been established as a leading source of publications covering pertinent topics relating to the political economy of the Middle East and North Africa region. Submissions from prospective authors are welcomed, and should be sent in the first instance to the series editor (H.Hakimian@city.ac.uk).

FORTHCOMING TITLES IN 2008:
Labour Markets in the Middle East and North Africa, edited by Tarik M. Yousef, Dubai School of Government, UAE.
Economic Performance in the Middle East and North Africa: Institutions, Corruption and Reform by Serdar Sayan, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara Turkey.

PUBLISHED TITLES

Trade Policy and Economic Integration in the Middle East and North Africa: Economic Boundaries in Flux, edited by Hassan Hakimian, (City University, UK) and Jeffrey B. Nugent, (University of Southern California, USA).
Islam and The Everyday World: Public Policy Dilemmas, edited by Sohrab Behdad (Denison University, USA) and Farhad Nomani(American Univeristy of Paris).

WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

Jeff Nugent will be organizing panels for the Western Economic Association International’s meetings in Vancouver, BC, June 29- July 3, 2009. If you are interested in presenting a paper on any economic topic concerning the Middle East or economic development in general, please contact Jeff. You should also indicate your willingness to serve as a discussant. He needs both of the paper abstract and your indication of willingness to serve as a discussant by January 8th. Contact him at nugent@usc.edu or (phone) 213 740-2107.

secretary’s letter (continued from page 1)

The preparations are currently under way for the 8th International Meetings to be held at the International University of Monaco, March 18-20, 2009. The deadline for submission of abstracts is September 15 and I strongly recommend that you visit the conference web site at http://meea2009.monaco.edu/prog_committee.php to get more information about this conference which, I think, is likely to be a great one.

Speaking of web sites, the MEEA web site has a new face which I am sure you all will like. Make sure to visit http://meeaweb.org frequently to learn about upcoming events and announcements about summer and winter conferences. The program for the 29th Annual Conference that will begin on January 2, 2009 in San Francisco is already available in our web site.

We in the program committee really had a tough time, while trying to decide which papers to accept for presentation at the San Francisco meetings. We eventually have accepted 36 papers for presentation in the eight pre-ASSA sessions that we will have at the University of San Fransisco on January 2, one day prior to the opening of ASSA meetings. Two of the pre-ASSA sessions were proposed by our members: The session proposed by Jennifer Olmsted is about the Palestinian economy and the session proposed by Nathalie Hilmi is about capital flows. The rest of the accepted papers will be presented in three regular sessions plus a poster session to be held as part of the ASSA meetings. I am looking forward to seeing the authors of all accepted papers in New Orleans in January.

In closing, I would like to give you an update about our associated journals. Selected papers from the 28th Annual Conference in New Orleans and the 6th International Conference held at Zayed University in Dubai in 2007 were already published in volume 10 of our on-line journal, Topics in Middle Eastern and North African Economies. You can access Volume 10 at http://www.luc.edu/orgs/meea/volume10/meea10.html . The other associated journal, Review of Middle East Economics and Finance (RMEEF), whose publication was terminated in 2005, is back with volume 4 (http://www.bepress.com/rmeef/). The volume was published by the Berkeley Electronic Press, the new publisher, under the editorship of Ghassan Dibeh who took over the responsibilities of founding editor Wassim Shahin. The journal continues to need the support of MEEA members as authors of high quality manuscripts, punctilious and prompt referees, as well as loyal readers who would provide the feedback that the editorial team needs to further improve the journal’s quality.

I hope to see you all in San Fransisco in January and in Monaco in March 2009.

Serdar Sayan,
TOBB University of Economics and Technology
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.


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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

Address

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Send to: Hassan Aly
Treasurer, Middle East Economic Association
318 Morrill Hall
Ohio State University
Marion, Ohio 43302-5695

Best Regards,

MEEA Programming Committee
Mine Cinar, Loyola University Chicago
Hadi Esfahani, University of Illinois
Hassan Aly, Ohio State University
Edward Sayre, University of Southern Mississippi

The Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) in association with the Hedge Fund Research Institute (HFRI), the International University of Monaco (IUM) and the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis CEMAF will hold its 8th International Conference on March 18-20, 2009, in Nice and Monaco.

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. Submission papers must be sent to Nathalie HILMI and Alain SAFA at meea2009@monaco.edu.

Authors are reminded of the following deadlines:
Deadline for abstract submission is **15 September 2008**
Deadline for submission of full papers is **10 January 2009**
Reply to authors on full acceptance: **23 January 2009**
Announcement of the program by: **1 February 2009**


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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