Economics research on MENA is growing in leaps and bounds both in terms quantity and quality, and the MEEA is playing a major role in facilitating that process. The papers being presented at the MEEA conferences are expanding in numbers and becoming increasingly sophisticated. At the annual meetings, we have had to extend our sessions beyond ASSA slotted times, a feature that started in 2007 and has now become almost institutionalized. The international conferences of the MEEA have also seen the same trend. Our most recent international conference at the Eastern Mediterranean University was highly successful and included a large number of important contributions to the economics research on MENA. The upcoming MEEA conference in Monaco/Nice is promising to be by far the largest gathering of the economists working on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) ever.

In this context, we have tried to raise the effectiveness of the MEEA by developing a new website that allows for payment of dues through PayPal and for uploading of papers by the participants directly. We will continue to work on the new website to improve its functionality. Adding mechanisms for sharing information and data will be an important part of those steps.

Another step toward improving MEEA capabilities is the expansion of the Board, which was discussed at length in last year’s Board and Business meetings. We have drafted a revised version of the MEEA
**Topics in Middle Eastern and North African Economies**
the online journal of MEEA [http://www.meeaweb.org](http://www.meeaweb.org)

Editor: E. Mine Cinar

Contents of Volume 10, September 2008

“Globalization, Public Expenses and Economic Growth: Evidence from Turkey” by Nathalie Hilmi, International University of Monaco and Hedge Funds Research Institute; Alain Safa, University of Nice-Sophia-Antipolis

“Dualistic Development in UAE and GCC” by Suleiman I. Cohen, Erasmus University

“Stock Prices, Exchange Rates, and Oil: Evidences from Middle East Oil-Exporting Countries” by Mohamed Abdelaziz, Georgios Chortareas, and Andrea Cipollini, University of Essex

“Investment Opportunities for Foreign Capital and Economic Fragility in Turkey” by Saziye Gazioglu and Ulkem Basdas, Middle East Technical University

“How Has Specialization in Turkish Exports Evolved Over Time? A Study Based on Galtonian Regressions” by Guzin Erlat and Haluk Erlat, Middle East Technical University

“The Role of Investments in Universities and in Airports on the Regional Convergence” by Fatma Dogruel, Marmara University; Fatma Nur Karaman, Istanbul Technical University

“Structural Change and Efficiency of Banking in Turkey: Does the Ownership Matter?” by Ahmet Faruk Aysan, Bogazici University; Sanli Pinar Ceyhan, Istanbul Bilgi University

“Efficiency Analysis of Turkish Preparation and Spinning of Textile Fibres; Weaving of Textiles Industry: The Cases of Firm-Based and Cumulative Data” by M. Ensar Yesilyurt and Filiz Yesilyurt, Pamukkale University

“Disaggregated Education Data and Growth: Some Facts from Turkey and MENA Countries” by Zeynep Deniz, Bilgi University; A. Suut Dogruel, Marmara University

“Are There Shifts in Persistence in the Turkish Inflation Rates?” by Haluk Erlat, Middle East Technical University

**MEEA President’s Letter (continued)**

Bylaws, which soon will be put to vote by the membership.

For longer term, the MEEA should consider holding joint conferences with other organizations on a regular basis. It should also pursue smaller conferences that focus on specific topics or subsets of countries. Establishment of new prizes for high quality papers on MENA economies is also on the agenda of the MEEA Board.

As the quality and quantity of our research improve, we need to pursue better channels for dissemination of the finding, especially the policy implications, to a much wider audience. This is particularly urgent and needs greater attention in the near future because international relations are likely to undergo major changes in the wake of the recent global economic and political crises. Adding our research results to the policy debates that shape such changes can help make the policy outcomes better informed.

Finally, I would like to invite the MEEA constituency to increase their participation in the debates about the directions that the MEEA will be taking. I encourage our members and other interested parties to contact the MEEA officers and express their views on what needs to be done. Volunteering to take on new or existing tasks would also be greatly appreciated. Such participation is particularly important in the near future because the MEEA will hold its elections this year. I very much look forward to seeing new faces volunteer to run for the Board or MEEA offices and bring fresh energy and ideas to the organization.

I wish each and every member the best for the coming year and beyond.

Hadi Salehi Esfahani
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Friday, January 2nd

10:00 am, College of Extended Learning, SFSU, 835 Market Street, 6th Floor Room 1

**Capital Flows**

*Presiding:*  
**NATHALIE HILMI,** International Univ of Monaco-Hedge Funds Research Institute

**ALAIN SAFA,** University of Nice, **MARIE-JOSE RINALDI-LARIBBE** and **NATHALIE HILMI,** International University of Monaco – Capital Flows in Transition Economies: The Role of FDI in the Convergence with the European Union

**GREGORY GADZINSKI***, **JEREMIE COSMAO** and **VICTOR PLANAS,** International University of Monaco – Capital Flows in Transition Economies: The Role of FDI in the Convergence with the European Union

**SEVA INSE** and **MARCUS MARKTANNER,** American University of Beirut – The Role of Capital Flows in Economic Development in the MENA Region

**CLAUDIE BERTHOMIEU*** and **ANNA TYKHONENKO,** University of Nice – Macroeconomic Implications of Remittances in MENA and Mediterranean Countries

*Discussants:*  
**MOHAMED BENBUOZIANE,** University of Tlemcen  
**ALI BAYAR,** EcoMod & Free Univ Brussels  
**ONER GUNCAVCI,** Istanbul Tech Univ  
**AYSU INSE,** Marmara University  

10:00 am, College of Extended Learning, SFSU, 835 Market Street, 6th Floor Room 2

**Finance**

*Presiding:*  
**MINE CINAR,** Loyola Univ of Chicago  

**SEZA DANISOGLU** and **NURAY GUNER,** Middle East Technical University – Macroeconomic Implications of Remittances in MENA and Mediterranean Countries

**RICHARD A. AJAYI,** University of Central Florida, **SEYED MEHDIAN** and **MARK J. PERRY,** University of Michigan-Flint – The Relative Influence of the East and the West on Middle Eastern Emerging Stock Markets: An Empirical Investigation

**FIRUZE BOLUKBASI,** Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, and **SEZA DANISOGLU,** Middle East Technical University – Inflation Targeting and Financial Stability: Stock Market Reaction to Policy Adoption

**NURAY GUNER,** Middle East Technical University – Reactions of Returns on Turkish Real Estate Investment Trusts to Macroeconomic Variables

*Discussants:*  
**RIZA DEMIRER,** Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville  
**ALI KUTAN,** Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville  
**WASSIM SHAHIN,** Lebanese American University  
**TALHA YALTA,** TOBB University of Economics and Technology

**NURAY GUNER,** Middle East Technical University, and **ZEYNEP ONDER,** Bilkent University – Reactions of Returns on Turkish Real Estate Investment Trusts to Macroeconomic Variables

1:00 pm  
SFSU, 835 Market Street, 6th Floor Room 2

**Issues in Banking**

*Presiding:*  
**WASSIM SHAHIN,** Lebanese American Univ

**YASEMIN YALTA***, Hacettepe University, and **TALHA YALTA,** TOBB University of Economics and Technology – How Do Foreign Bank Acquisitions Affect Bank Outreach in Turkey?

**BASAK TANYERI,** Bilkent University – Stock Market Reactions to Turkish Bank Mergers

**AHMET FARUK AYSAN,** GAZI I. KARA, and **LEVENT YILDIRAN,** Bogazici University – Failure of Price Competition and Sticky Interest Rates in the Turkish Credit Card Market

*Discussants:*  
**MICHAEL TWOMEY,** Univ of Mich, Dearborn  
**MINE CINAR,** Loyola University of Chicago  
**ADEL BOUGHRARA,** University of Sousse  
**ANDRÉS RAMIREZ,** Bryant University

1:00 pm  
SFSU, 835 Market Street, 6th Floor Room 2

**The Palestinian Economy: On-Going Fiscal and Employment Crisis**

*Presiding:*  
**JENNIFER C. OLMSTED,** Drew University

**JENNIFER C. OLMSTED,** Drew University – Where is the Peace Dividend? A Class, Gender and Age Cohort Analysis of Post-Oslo Employment in Palestine

**EDWARD SAYRE,** University of Southern Mississippi – Labor Market Regulations and Unemployment Duration in Palestine

**BASEL SALEH,** Radford University – An Analysis of the Palestinian Fiscal Situation: Challenges and Consequences

1:00 pm  
SFSU, 835 Market Street, 6th Floor Room 1

**International Trade**

*Presiding:*  
**JEFF NUGENT,** Univ of Southern California

**GUZIN ERLAT** and **HALUK ERLAT,** Middle East Technical University – Decomposing the Marginal Intra-Industry Trade Index as a Measure of Changes in Trade Patterns and Its Application to the MENA Countries
January 2nd-3rd, 2009 (continued)

FIRAT DEMIR, University of Oklahoma, and OMAR S. DAHI, Hampshire College – Effects of Trade Liberalization and Preferential Trade Agreements on the Pattern and Direction of Trade: Evidence from MENA, Latin America and East Asia

AYSU INSEL and MAHMUT TEKCE, Marmara University – Trade Potential of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries: A Gravity Model Approach

Discussants:
BASSAM ABU AL-FOUL, American University – Shifts in Persistence in the Turkish Real Exchange Rate
IDA MIRZAIE, Ohio State University, and MAGDA KANDIL, International Monetary Fund – Higher Oil Prices, A Blessing or Curse for Producing Countries? The Case of Iran
ARDA AKTAS, Middle East Technical University – Measuring Fiscal Sustainability for Practical Use in Short-Term Policy Making
HAKAN BERUMENT, Bilkent University, NUKHET DOGAN, Gazi University, and AYSIT TANSEL, Middle East Technical University – Inflation Volatility and Openness: Evidence from MENA Countries
ALI BAYAR and HODA YOUSSEF, Ecomod and Free University of Brussels – Potential Impacts of De-Pegging Gulf Currencies

Discussants:
TARIK YOUSEF, Dubai School of Government and Brookings Institution
ALI BAYAR and HODA YOUSSEF, Ecomod and Free University of Brussels – Climate Change Challenges and Policies for the MENA Countries
MICHAEL KEVANE and LESLIE GRAY, Santa Clara University – Darfur: Rainfall and Conflict
SARAOGLU, Middle East Technical University – A Re-examination of Income Convergence Cases of Lebanon and Turkey
NER, American University of Beirut – Trapped by Consociationalism: The Case of Lebanon

Water Issues and the Environment

Presiding:
TARIK YOUSEF, Dubai School of Government and Brookings Institution

ALI BAYAR and HODA YOUSSEF, Ecomod and Free University of Brussels – Climate Change Challenges and Policies for the MENA Countries
MICHAEL KEVANE and LESLIE GRAY, Santa Clara University – Darfur: Rainfall and Conflict
SARAOGLU, Middle East Technical University – A Re-examination of Income Convergence Cases of Lebanon and Turkey
NER, American University of Beirut – Trapped by Consociationalism: The Case of Lebanon

Discussants:
BENAN ORBAY, Dogus University
JENNIFER C. OLMSTED, Drew University
MICHAEL KEVANE, Santa Clara University

January 2nd, 2:30 pm
SFSU, 835 Market Street, 6th Floor Room 2

Open Economy Macroeconomics

Presiding:
GUZIN ERLAT, Middle East Technical University
HALUK ERLAT, Middle East Technical University
IDA MIRZAIE, Ohio State University, and MAGDA KANDIL, International Monetary Fund – Higher Oil Prices, A Blessing or Curse for Producing Countries? The Case of Iran
ARDA AKTAS, Middle East Technical University – Measuring Fiscal Sustainability for Practical Use in Short-Term Policy Making
HAKAN BERUMENT, Bilkent University, NUKHET DOGAN, Gazi University, and AYSIT TANSEL, Middle East Technical University – Inflation Volatility and Openness: Evidence from MENA Countries
ALI BAYAR and HODA YOUSSEF, Ecomod and Free University of Brussels – Potential Impacts of De-Pegging Gulf Currencies

Discussants:
TAYYEB SHABBIR, California State University
SHAWKAT HAMMOUDEH, Drexel University
MEHMET SERKAN TOSUN, University of Nevada, Reno
ADEL BOUGHIRARA, University of Sousse
SIMON NEAIME, American University of Beirut

January 3rd, 2:30 pm
Hilton Yosemite Foyer
Poster Session

Presiding:
HASSAN ALY, Ohio State University

ALI DADPAY, Marketing Analytics – Fuel Black Market in Iran: A Mixed Oligopoly Analysis
BASSAM ABU AL-FOUL, American University of Sharjah – On the Causality between Defense Spending and Economic Growth: Evidence from the MENA Region
NAGLA RIZK, American University in Cairo – Intellectual Property Rights and the Economics of the Music Industry in Egypt

SAMIR B. E. MALIKI, University of Tlemcen, ABDERREZAK BENHABIB, University of Tlemcen, and JACQUES CHARMES, Research Institute for Development – Targeting Poor Algerian Households on the basis of Water Characteristics
SAMIR MAKDISI and MARCUS MARKTANNER, American University of Beirut – Trapped by Consociationalism: The Case of Lebanon
ANDRÉS RAMIREZ and HAKAN SARAOGLU, Bryant University – The Determinants of Cash Conversion Cycle: A Comparative Study of Middle Eastern Firms
KAREN PFEIFER, Smith College – When the Twain Shall Meet: Middle East Area Studies and the Discipline of Economics
NATHALIE HILMI and ALAIN SAFA, University of Nice – Growth, Poverty and Inequality: The Cases of Lebanon and Turkey
ZINE BARKA, University of Tlemcen – How Oil Revenues Have Translated into A Sustainable Improvement in Social Welfare in Algeria: 1998-2007
AHMED KAMALY, American University in Cairo – Modeling Total Factor Productivity: The Case of Egypt
MOHAMED BENBUOZIAN and ABDELHAK BENAMAR, University of Tlemcen, and SAMIRA HELLOU, University of Burgundy – Liquidity Effect and Long Run Neutrality in the MENA Countries: An Empirical Investigation
CYRUS BINA, University of Minnesota – Petroleum Industry and Energy Policy in the Islamic Republic
HALA EL RAMLY, American University in Cairo – A Re-examination of Income Convergence among Arab Countries
REZA ABEDIN, Institute for Trade Studies and Research – An Evaluation of the Possibilities for Trade Development among Iran and Selected MENA Countries
MOHAMED EL ARBI CHAFFAI, University of Sfax, and PATRICK PLANE, University of Clermont 1 – Total Factor Productivity of Tunisia’s Manufacturing Sectors: Measurement, Determinants and Convergence towards OECD Countries

MEEA Board Meeting
Hilton, Sunset Room
January 3rd, 2009
6:00-7:30 PM
(invitation only)

MEEA Business Meeting
Hilton, Union Square 13
January 3rd, 2009
7:30-8:30
January 4th, 2009

Sunday January 4th, 2009
8:00 a.m.
Hilton Union Square 18

Open Economy Macroeconomics and Finance in MENA

Presiding:
HALUK ERLAT, Middle East Technical University

ALI M. KUTAN, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville; William Davidson Institute, University of Michigan and Cass Business School, London, and RIZA DEMIRER, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville – The Behavior of Crude Oil Spot and Futures Prices around OPEC and SPR Announcements: An Event Study Perspective

EMRE ALPER and ORHAN TORUL, Bogazici University – Oil Prices, Aggregate Economic Activity and Global Liquidity Conditions: Evidence from Turkey

ADEL BOUGHRARA, University of Sousse, and SAMIR GHAZOUANI, University of Manouba – Is There a Bank Lending Channel of Monetary Policy in Selected MENA Countries? A Comparative Analysis

TAYYEB SHABBIR, California State University Dominguez Hills – Role of the Middle Eastern Sovereign Wealth Funds in the International Contagion of America’s Sub-prime Mortgage Crisis of 2007-08

SHAWKAT HAMMOUDEH, Drexel University, YUAN YUAN, Drexel University, and KAMAL SMIMOUL, University of Ontario – Cycles, Contagion and Volatility in the Stock Markets in Middle East and North Africa

January 4, 2009
10:15 a.m.
Hilton Union Square 18

Labor and Migration Issues

Presiding:
SOHRAB BEHDAD, Denison University

MOUHOUD EL MOUHOUB, University of Dauphine-Paris 9, LUIS MIOTTI, University of Paris 13-Nord, and JOEL OUDINET, University of Paris 13-Nord – Main Motivations of Remittances in the Mediterranean Basin: Results of a New Survey

ASENA CANER*, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, and CAGLA OKTEN, Bilkent University – Risk and Career Choice: Evidence from Turkey

H. YIGIT AYDEDE, Saint Mary’s University – Expected Social Security Wealth Simulations and Generational Fairness of the Turkish PAYG System

MICHAEL TWOMEY, University of Michigan, Dearborn – Incomes of Arab-Americans in the United States, and in Metro Detroit

HISHAM FOAD, San Diego State University – Immigration and Differentiated Goods Trade: The Effects of Migration from the Middle East on Trade with Europe and North America

HISMA KHAN, University of Pennsylvania – Capital Account Liberalization, Exchange Rate Regime and Competitiveness in Emerging Markets

SAIMA KAYAM and MEHTAP HISAR, Istanbul Technical University – Spatial Determinants of FDI in the MENA Region

TIDIANE KINDA, PATRICK PLANE and MARIE-ANGE VÉGANZONÈS-VAROUDAKIS, University of Auvergne – Business Environment and Performance of the Manufacturing Industry: The Case of the Middle East and North Africa

BENAN ORBAY, Dugus University and ONER GUNCAVDI, Istanbul Technical University – Product Variety, Export Performance and Exchange Rates: Empirical Evidence from Turkey

Discussants:
HALUK ERLAT, Middle East Technical University
FIRAT DEMIR, Oklahoma State University
AYCA TEKIN-KORU, Oregon State University
ALI DADPAY, Marketing Analytics

January 4, 2009
12:30 p.m.
Hilton Union Square 18

Trade, Competitiveness and FDI

Presiding: SERDAR SAYAN, TOBB University of Economics and Technology

BASSEM KAMAR, International Monetary Fund, and SAMY BENNAE, University of November 7 at Carthage – Capital Account Liberalization, Exchange Rate Regime and Competitiveness in Emerging Markets

SAIMA KAYAM and MEHTAP HISAR, Istanbul Technical University – Spatial Determinants of FDI in the MENA Region

TIDIANE KINDA, PATRICK PLANE and MARIE-ANGE VÉGANZONÈS-VAROUDAKIS, University of Auvergne – Business Environment and Performance of the Manufacturing Industry: The Case of the Middle East and North Africa

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AYCA TEKIN-KORU, Oregon State University
ALI DADPAY, Marketing Analytics

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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 29th, 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.

WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

Jeff Nugent will be organizing panels for the Western Economic Association International’s meetings in Vancouver, British Columbia. 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.

THE MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL (MEDJ)

The Economics Research Forum’s (ERF) new Journal, Middle East Development Journal will publish its first issue in June 2009. It aims to strengthen the research community in the Middle East and North Africa and deepen understanding of development in the region. The journal will publish analyses of particular problems or challenges confronting the region, evaluations of specific economic and social policies or programs applied within or relevant to the region, explorations of progress within certain segments of the region’s population or within specific locations, investigations of cross-country issues or country-specific issues, assessments of the impact of external factors, and comparisons with other regions.

While the journal will emphasize research falling under the heading of ‘applied economics’, theoretical work will also be encouraged as will contributions from other disciplines, especially political science and sociology. The journal’s ultimate goal is to provide a solid analytical and empirical base for the promotion of good policy within the region. Authors interested in publishing their research in this issue are requested to submit manuscripts at http://www.editorialmanager.com/medj/login.asp or to Namees Nabeel (nnabil@erf.org.eg) before December 31, 2008.

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

EDITED BY HASSAN HAKIMIAN, LMEI RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AND CASS BUSINESS SCHOOL, LONDON

The aim of the Series is to publish both specialist and more general titles pertaining to the political economy of the Middle East and North Africa region – broadly defined to cover countries from Morocco to Iran. The Series is overseen by an international Editorial Board covering a broad range of expertise and areas of specialism.

There have been four volumes out already and another three are in the pipeline. The series continues to attract excellent contributions, matched by some of the best names from the field.

Submissions from prospective authors are welcomed, and should be sent in the first instance to the series editor (H.Hakimian@city.ac.uk). The series is open to single-authored books as well as edited volumes and textbooks. All manuscripts are subject to international standards of peer review.

FORTHCOMING TITLES:

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.

Monetary Policy and Central Banking in the Middle East and North Africa, edited by David Cobham, Heriot-Watt University and Ghassan Dibeh, Lebanese American University, Byblos, Lebanon

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).

State Formation in Palestine: Viability and Governance during a Social Transformation, edited by Musthaq Husain Khan (SOAS, London) with George Giacaman (Muwatin, Palestine) and Inge Amundsen (Christen Michelsen Institute, Norway).

Islam and The Everyday World: Public Policy Dilemmas, edited by Sohrab Behdad (Denison University, USA) and Farhad Nomanif(American Univeristy o f Paris).
New and Recent Titles

As part of the information services to MEEA members, the Newsletter will announce new titles on the political economy of the Middle East. We renew our request to publishers to send us copies of new titles on the political economy of the Middle East and North Africa.


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

Telephone:

Fax:

Email

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

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.

While the deadline for abstract submissions has already passed, authors of accepted abstracts are reminded that to be eligible for inclusion in the conference the papers should be received in electronic form by the following deadlines:
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


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, 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
Vol. 19 No. 2, Fall 2008

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

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