Letter from the MEEA President

After what has been a very divided election here in the U.S., I hope that our growing number of MEEA members worldwide can continue to work with those of us based in the U.S. in trying to find better solutions to the economic, political, social and environmental problems of the Middle East. With wars in Iraq and Sudan continuing, economic problems in abundance throughout the MENA region, the Israeli-Palestinian disputes in deadlock, economic reforms throughout most of the region stalled, and political reforms generally not even started, there is clearly much to be done. Never have the problems of the MENA region been as central to the concerns of the whole world as they are at present. Who more than MEEA members throughout the world in their many different capacities can be expected to bear greater responsibility for improving our understanding of and finding solutions for these problems?

This is an extremely important year for the MEEA. It is the thirtieth year of the MEEA’s existence. We hope that you will help us celebrate this anniversary by joining us at our annual conference to be held this year in Philadelphia January 7-9, 2005 in conjunction with the Allied Social Science Association meetings. Please attend as many sessions as you can. To honor this occasion and thanks to the efforts of Hadi Esfahani, there will be a special dinner and talk on Friday evening, January 7. We are pleased to announce that Dr. John Page of the World Bank will be the speaker. The title of his talk is “Integration or Migration: Alternative Pathways to Prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa?” For those who don’t know him, John

Continued on page 2

Call for Papers

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations in Boston, MA January 6-8, 2006

Please send a one-page abstract by March 31, 2005 to:
Hadi Esfahani, Executive Secretary
Middle East Economic Association
210 David Kinley Hall
Department of Economics
1407 W. Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801

Note: Abstracts should be accompanied with a program submission fee of $25 US as well as an annual membership fee for 2004 of $25 US for faculty and other professionals, $20 for students, and $10 for all members residing in a MENA country.
President's Letter (continued from page 1)

has worked in and on the Middle East for many years and is an excellent speaker. Spaces will be limited and we have to have an exact count. Hence, if you are planning to attend the conference and want to reserve a spot for yourself (and any guests you may wish to bring) for this no-host dinner ($28 per person) please email me by no later than December 30 nugent@usc.edu. You can also contact Professor Shawkat Hammoudeh at Drexel University hammousm@drexel.edu if you plan to attend. The dinner will be at 8PM following the MEEA Business Meeting and take place at the Courtyard Philadelphia Downtown, 21 Juniper Street, 1-215-496-3200. In any case, please save that evening for the meeting and if you can for the dinner afterwards.

As you know, the MEEA has been making great strides in recent years. Yet, by no means is the MEEA ready to simply maintain the status quo. After our first-ever and excellent summer international conferences in recent years held at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, then our second at the University of Versailles-St. Quentin and our third this past summer at the Lebanese American University in Byblos, Lebanon, we will be joining with the well-known modeling network Global Economic Modeling Network (ECOMOD) for our first ever joint conference (see page 8 of this newsletter). The conference is entitled “Middle East and North African Economies: Past Perspectives and Future Challenges” and will be held at the Free University of Brussels, Belgium, 2-4 June, 2005. Moreover, just before this (May 30- June 1, 2005) the School of Business of Lebanese American University in Byblos will be holding its seventh annual conference. We hope that, as has been the case every year, MEEA members will want to join in this conference. Both of these back-to-back conferences should be exciting events. Please submit abstracts by the date indicated and the manner requested in the call for papers for these conferences provided elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website “meeaweb.org”.

Also, on this page and the next you can find announcements about (1) the new forthcoming Volume 6 in the series Research in Middle East Economies (RME) edited by Simon Neaime and Nora Ann Colton under the supervision of the RME Series Editor Jennifer Olmsted, and (2) the recently completed Volume 6 in the on line Proceedings journal of MEEA, Topics in Middle Eastern and North African Economies edited by Mine Cinar.

On behalf of the MEEA I wish to express our collective thanks to Hadi Esfahani for his wonderful job as Executive Secretary and Program Chair in preparing such an exciting program for our annual meeting in Philadelphia January 7-9, 2005, and to MEEA member Ali Bayar, president of ECOMOD and faculty member at the Free University of Brussels, for agreeing to join us in hosting the June 2005 Conference in Brussels. Hope that members new and old can join us for one or both of these conferences or perhaps the LAU conference in Byblos, Lebanon.

Along with my fellow officers and Board members of the MEEA, I invite you to give us suggestions of activities in which you think MEEA might wish to participate and ways in which you think MEEA might better serve the interests of its members.

Finally, please remember to help us in getting new especially young economists involved as new members, potential nominees for the Ibn Khaldun prize, to participate in our conferences as presenter and/or discussant and to keep up to date with what is going on in MEEA and with the announcements that we think may be of interest to MEEA members via our website “meeaweb.org”. Details about the Ibn Khaldun Prize are also provided on page 6 of this newsletter.

With best wishes for peace, progress and the holidays and New Year ahead,

Jeff Nugent
University of Southern California
Editors: Simon Neaime, American University of Beirut
Nora Ann Colton, Drew University

Introduction. Nora Ann Colton and Simon Neaime

Part I. Savings, investments and portfolio and FDI flows in MENA

1. Portfolio Diversification and Financial Integration of MENA Stock Markets
   Simon Neaime

2. Foreign Direct Investment in Tunisia: Role of the Free Trade Agreement with the European Union
   Mohamed Abdelbasset Chemingui and Nora Ann Colton

3. Institutional Investors, Contractual Savings And Capital Markets Development In Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia
   Wafik Grais and Dimitri Vittas

4. Financial Liberalization, Saving, Investment and Growth in Middle East Countries
   Achy Lachen

5. Determinants of Private Savings in the Middle East and North Africa
   Kivlicem Metin Özcan and Yusuf Ziya Özcan

Part II  Commercial banking in MENA

6. Profitability and Risk Management in Banking: A Comparative Analysis of Egypt and Lebanon
   Sam Hakim and Simon Neaime

7. An Analysis of Mergers and Acquisitions in the Turkish Banking Sector.
   Ayse Muncu Serdar and E. Unal Zenginobuz

Part III  Monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies in MENA

8. Hysteresis in Currency Substitution: the Middle East and North Africa
   Wassim Shahin and Fadi Freiha

9. Choosing an Appropriate Palestinian Monetary Regime
   Moyara De Moraes Ruehsen

10. Dollarization and its Long-Run Determinants in Turkey
    Irfan Civcir

11. Fiscal Monetary and Exchange Rate Policies In a Small Open Economy
    Simon Neaime

The 7th International Conference on the Economics and Finance of the Middle East and North Africa
Byblos, Lebanon
May 30-June 1, 2005

The School of Business at the Lebanese American University in association with the Middle East Chapter of the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) is holding its 7th International Conference on the Economics and Finance of the Middle East and North Africa on May 30-June 1, 2005, in Byblos, Lebanon. Papers in all areas of economics and finance with applications to the Middle East and North Africa are solicited. Proposals for complete sessions (three to four papers each) are also invited. Papers submitted for the complete sessions will be considered on an individual basis unless the proposal specifies that the session be considered in its entirety. Deadline for submission of abstract: March 1, 2005. Notification of acceptance: April 1, 2005. Deadline for submission of full paper: May 1, 2005.

Papers accepted for presentation can be submitted for consideration for publication in the Review of Middle East Economics and Finance, published by Taylor and Francis www.tandf.co.uk/journals. Authors of accepted papers to the conference will be eligible for reduced subscription rates to the Review of Middle East Economics and Finance. In addition, presenters will be offered a conference subsidy to be determined at a later date. For more information and submission of abstracts (~ 200-word) or full papers by e-mail (as word or Pdf attachment), contact

Dr. Salpie Djoundourian, Chair, Organizing Committee
Lebanese American University, P.O. Box 36, Byblos, Lebanon; E-mail address: econ_conference@lau.edu.lb
Website: http://www.lau.edu.lb

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January 7, 2005

8:00 a.m.
Loews Philadelphia room P2 Parlor

Public Spending and Taxes in the MENA Region

Presiding:
Tarik M. Yousef, Georgetown University

Mehmet S. Tosun, West Virginia University—Explaining the Variation in Tax Structures in the MENA Region

Magda E. Kandil, International Monetary Fund, and Ida A. Mirzaie, John Carroll University—Consumption and Macroeconomic Policies: Evidence of Asymmetry in Developing Countries.

Syed A. Ahsan and Ahmad El-Husseini, Concordia University—Public Expenditure, Institutions and Economic Development in MENA Countries

Steve Onyewu, Allegheny College, and Hemanta Shrestha, AT&T Corporation—Tax Incentives and Foreign Direct Investment in the MENA Region

Hans Lofgren, World Bank—Public Spending, Growth and Poverty

Discussants:
Hassan Aly, Ohio State University
Serdar Sayan, Bilkent University
William Trumbull, West Virginia University
Ayça Tekin-Koru, Oregon State University
Haluk Eral, Middle East Technical University

* * *

Jan. 7, 10:15 am
Loews Philadelphia room P2 Parlor

Causes and Consequences of Economic Sanctions

Presiding:
Zine Barka, University of Tlemcen, Algeria

Robert Eyler, Sonoma State University—Understanding Economic Sanctions

Bassam Yousif, California State University-Fullerton—Iraq under Sanction, 1990-2003

Jennifer Olmsted, Drew University—How Helpful is a Sanctions Model for Understanding the Palestinian Economy?

Basel Saleh, College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University—The Social and Economic Costs of Israel Barrier on the Palestinian Territories

Discussants:
David Baldwin, Princeton University
Tarik M. Yousef, Georgetown University
Kimberly Elliot, Institute for International Economics
David Cortright, Fourth Freedom
Clifford Zinn, University of Maryland

* * *

Jan. 7, 2:30 pm
Convention Center 204 C

Oil, Inflation and Politics: Major Problems of Middle Eastern Countries (Poster Session)

Presiding
Jeff Nugent, University of Southern California

Kay Adamson, Glasgow Caledonian University—Replicating Nineteenth Century America? French Objectives in Algeria during the Second Napoleonic Empire and Their Contemporary Relevance

Hossein Akhavi-Pour, Hamline University—Causes and Consequences of Changes in the Financial Means of Transactions in Iran

Ozge Akinci, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey—Modeling the Demand for Real Currency Issued in Turkey

Zelal Aktas and Neslihan Kaya, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey—Optimal Policy Rules for Inflation Targeting With and Without High Debt and Risk Premium

Parvin Alizadeh, Denison University—Financial deepening and economic growth in Iran, Turkey, and Egypt

Peren Arin, Massey University—Market Size and Market Structure: Evidence from Turkey

Hamza Alsalem, Clark University—Domestic Money Market Disequilibrium and the Demand for Foreign Reserves: The Case of Oil-exporting Countries

C. Bülent Aybar, Southern New Hampshire University—Political Economy of Privatization Revisited: An Assessment of Turkish Privatization in Light of Recent Economic and Political Dynamics

Ahmet Faruk Aysan, University of Maryland College Park—Ibn Khaldun’s Perspective on Failure to Reform and an Alternative Approach to Understand His Contributions to Modern Economics

Fatma Bircan and Aysit Tansel, Middle East Technical University—Private Tutoring In Turkey

Fatma El-Hamidi, University of Pittsburgh—General or Vocational? Evidence on School Choice and Returns from Egypt

Nuray Güner, Middle East Technical University, Zeynep Önder, Bilkent University, and Seza Danisoglu Rhoades, Middle East Technical University—The “Champions” and the “Dark Horses” of FDI: What Country Characteristics Attract?

Nader Kabbani, American University of Beirut—Measuring Hunger and Food Insecurity in Yemen

Almila Karasoy, Kürsat Kunter, and Vuslat Us, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey—Optimal Monetary Policy Rules under Inflation Targeting: The Turkish Case

Zahra Karimi Moughari, University of Mazandaran—The Share of Women in Iranian Labor Market

Ali M. Khalil, University of Amman—A Cross Section Estimate of Translog Production Functions: Jordanian Manufacturing Industry

Edward Sayre, Agnes Scott College—Wage Compression and the Returns to Schooling for Palestinian men, 1995-2001
January 8, 2005

Jan. 8, 8:00 am
Loews Philadelphia
P2 Parlor

Potential for Microfinance in the Middle East

Presiding: Nagla Rizk, American University in Cairo

Mohammed Khaled, World Bank Consultant—The Potential for Microfinance in the Middle East: Prospects and Problems

Keith Weigelt, University of Pennsylvania—Comparative Performance of Microfinance Programs: Across Countries and Relative to Mainstream Financial Institutions

Yasmeen Mohiuddin, University of the South—Applications of the Grameen Bank Model under Diverse Scenarios in South Asia and the U.S.: Lessons for the Middle East

Tayyeb Shabbir, University of Pennsylvania—Microfinancing 2010: Transition to PHASE II

Martha Starr, American University, and Rasim Yilmaz, Dumlupinar University—Bank Runs in Emerging Market Countries: Turkey’s Special Finance Houses

Discussants: Bulent Gultekin, University of Pennsylvania
Suleyman Ozmucur, University of Pennsylvania
Andy Lamas, University of Pennsylvania
C. Emre Alper, Bogazici University
Hossein Akhavi-Pour, Hamline University

Jan. 8, 10:15 am
Loews Philadelphia
P2 Parlor

Performance of Financial Markets in the Middle East

Presiding: Fatemeh Moghadam, Hofstra University

Shawkat Hammoudeh, Drexel University, and Kyongwook Choi, Ohio University—Volatility Regime-Switching and Linkage among GCC Stock Markets

C. Emre Alper and Murat Ucer, Bogazici University—How Important Is the U.S. Monetary Policy in Affecting the Sovereign Bond Spreads? Evidence from 1997-2003 Turkish Eurobonds

Olcay Yucel Emir and Gulbin Sahinbeyoglu, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey—The Impact of News on the Turkish Lira-U.S. Dollar Exchange Rate

Riza Demirer and Ali M. Kutan, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville—The Middle East Turmoil and Crude Oil Future Dynamics

Mine Cinar, Joseph Poulous, Eric Slear, Loyola University—Comparative Banking Regimes in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt

Discussants:

Martha Starr, American University
Ozge Akinci, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey
Hamza Alsaleem, Clark University
Peren Arin, Massey University
Tayyeb Shabbir, University of Pennsylvania

Jan. 8, 2:30 pm
Loews Philadelphia
P2 Parlor

Trade and Employment in the Middle East

Presiding: Ayca Tekin-Koru, Oregon State University

Bernard Hoekman, World Bank and CEPR, Denise Konan, University of Hawaii, and Keith Maskus, University of Colorado—An Egypt-U.S. Free Trade Agreement: Economic Incentives and Effects

Azadna Brixova, Edward R. Gemayal, and Rishi Goyal, International Monetary Fund—Exchange Rate Misalignment and Employment Adjustments in Oil Exporting Countries

Alpay Filiztekin, Sabanci University—Exchange Rates and Labor Markets in Turkey

Cagri Sarikaya, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey—Export Dynamics in Turkey

Guzin Eralt and Haluk Eralt, Middle East Technical University—The Comparative Advantage of Turkish Exports vis-a-vis the European Union and OECD Countries, 1990-2000

Discussants:

Hans Lofgren, World Bank
Edward Sayre, Agnes Scott College
Haluk Eralt, Middle East Technical University
Hadi Salehi Esfahani, University of Illinois
C. Bulent Aybar, Southern New Hampshire University

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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 after receiving Ph.D.) must be received no later than December 18, 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.

**REVIEW OF MIDDLE EAST ECONOMICS AND FINANCE**

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. Strong emphasis is placed on empirically based papers. The Review 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 mee@lau.edu.lb

**THE ROUTLEDGECURZON POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA SERIES**

RoutledgeCurzon is proud to announce the launch of this new series to widen in-depth analyses and understanding of the economic and political dynamics of the MENA region. It will feature the latest political economy studies of the Middle East defined to encompass countries from Morocco to Iran.

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

Series editor: Hassan Hakimian, Senior Lecturer in Economics at Cass Business School, City University, London.

**SPECIAL ISSUE OF EMERGING MARKETS FINANCE AND TRADE**

There will be a special issue of Emerging Markets Finance and Trade guest edited by Serdar Sayan of Bilkent University and Ayhan Kose of the IMF will be out in Nov. 2004. The theme of the special issue is “Business Cycle Characteristics and Transmission of Crises in a Globalized Economy: The Case of MENA and Europe.” For further information concerning the contents of this email, please contact Serdar Sayan (sayan@bilkent.edu.tr).

**SPECIAL MEBER ISSUE SUMMER 2005**

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES**

The Middle East Business and Economic Review is calling for papers addressing the structure, performance and future of financial institutions in the Middle East region. The MEBER is a refereed journal published semi annually by the Association for Middel East Economic Research in Australia. The MEBER is indexed by the Journal of Economic Literature, Econlit and its papers are abstracted in many professional journals. Submission details: Accepted papers will be published in a special issue of MEBER to appear in the summer of 2005. All submitted papers will be subject to the usual peer review process. Papers should be written in English and cannot exceed 30 pages in length.

Papers should be submitted in triplicate no later than January 31, 2005 to (electronic submissions preferred): Professor Ali F. Darrat, Guest Editor, The Middle East Business and Economic Review, Department of Accounting and Finance School of Business and Management, The American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, E-mail: adarrat@aus Sharjah.edu, Home page: http://www.cab.latech.edu/Darrat

**MEMBER AWARDS AND NOTES**


The article entitled “Brain drain from Turkey: Survey evidence of Student Non-Return” written by Professor Dr. Aysit Tansel and Dr. Nil Demet Gungor was selected as the best article published in 2003 in the journal titled Career Development International.
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.


CALL FOR PAPERS
MEEA-ECOMOD
JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 2005

We are pleased to inform you that the international conference “Middle East and North African Economies: Past Perspectives and Future Challenges” will take place in Brussels, at the Free University of Brussels, on June 2-4, 2005. The conference is co-organized by the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) and the Global Economic Modeling Network (ECOMOD).

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.

Deadline for abstract submissions is January 15, 2005. Deadline for submission of full papers is April 15, 2005. You can submit your paper on the conference management website: www.ecomod.net

Details are available on: www.ecomod.net

Program Committee Co-Chairs

Prof. Ali Bayar
President, ECOMOD
Free University of Brussels
Prof. Jeffrey Nugent
President, MEEA

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

JOIN THE DISCUSSION
www.meeaweb.org

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