Letter from the MEEA President

September 11th was a sad and heart-wrenching day. Our thoughts are with the families, friends and colleagues of the victims of the attacks. I received numerous emails that week from colleagues and MEEA members who live in the Middle East who sent their condolences and sympathies. In view of the events, it is especially important that we reaffirm the importance of MEEA in strengthening an academic community of economists who work on Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and its interdependence with the rest of the world. Many of the papers presented at MEEA meetings over the last decade have called attention to the problems of poverty, income inequality, trade sanctions, labor markets, gender and of course monetary, fiscal and trade policies. The lack of appropriate institutions including governance and judicial institutions, and the existence of conflicts over territory, water, and religion plague most of the countries in the region. As other parts of the world have gained in economies of scale through regional integration in the last decade, many countries of the MENA region have exhibited declining personal incomes, increasing political instability and increasing religious fundamentalism.

The events of September 11th and the ensuing actions should make the academic scholars associated with MEEA more determined than ever to portray the economic and political realities of the region. MENA is composed of countries which exhibit very different macro and micro dynamics. Yet enhancing productivity through education, ending gender discrimination, increasing labor and trade flows to increase regional cooperation, ending sanctions, settling land and resource disputes, restoring

Continued on page 2
these last two years. I wish you a very productive new year.

Treasurer Bulent Uyar for the service they have given to MEEA over
Newsletter Editor Ward Sayre, Executive Secretary Jeff Nugent and
I would like to thank the MEEA Board, Series Editor Jennifer Olmsted,
service are going to be three years beginning in 2004.  
exceptions of the present Board and the Executive team, the terms for
out the numerous tasks associated with running MEEA. With the
members. We have instigated this because of the steep learning curve the
membership voted to lengthen the terms of future Board and the Executive
Board, the soon to be appointed Editorial Board and the Series editor. Parvin discussed the
linkages she had in mind between the Editor and the Board. She also asked for
names to be solicited for the Editorial Board. Ward Sayre, Newsletter Editor, announced that the newsletter is now taking on bigger dimensions. MEEA has already introduced a second summer newsletter which will be expanded to four pages. Any ideas or announcements would be greatly appreciated and should be submitted to him.

Mine Cinar, President, announced that good papers presented in the meeting will be
solicited shortly for the electronic proceedings journal of MEEA (Topics in MENA) and asked that a short version be submitted to her. MEEA urges authors to publish
solicitations for the May 2001 conference in the Lebanese American University in Byblos, Lebanon, the host university for the new chapter that is being established for that region, were distributed to the audience.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
January 4, 2002

8:00 a.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Salon E

Trade, Exchange, Institutional and Policy Issues in the Middle East (Poster Session)

Presiding
Jeffrey B. Nugent, University of Southern California

Nora Ann Colton, Drew University, Poverty Alleviation and Development in Yemen

Sasan Fayazmanesh, California State University-Fresno, U.S. Corporations, Lobbies, and the Economic Sanctions Against Iran

Murat Somer, University of Washington, Ethnic Conflict in Low-Trust Societies: How Can Institutions Help During Transitions?

Sousan Badiel, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, and Cyrus Bina, University of Minnesota, Iran's Economy in Perspective: Oil, Capital Formation, and the Rentier State

Nozar Hashemzadeh, Radford University, Energy Exports and Economic Growth in the Middle Eastern Region: A Test of Thirlwall’s Hypothesis

Guzin Erlat, Middle East Technical University, and Emel Memis, Volkswagen Dogus Turketiei Finansman, Measuring Intra-industry and Marginal Intra-industry Trade: The Case for Turkey

Zehra Kasnakoglu and Meltem Dayioglu, Middle East Technical University, Value of Household Production by Gender and Income Groups in Turkey

Florence Eid, American University of Beirut, Governance and Incentives in the Public Hospital Sector

10:15 a.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Embassy

Roundtable on the Turkish Financial Crisis

Presiding
Mine Cinar, Loyola University of Chicago

Nurhayat Bezgin, Representative of the Central Bank of Turkey, New York

Serdar Sayan, Bilkent University

C. Emre Alper, Bogazici University

12:00 p.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Diplomat

Lunch

Timur Kuran, University of Southern California, Opportunistic Taxation in Middle Eastern History: Islamic Influences on the Evolution of Private Property Rights

Fatemeh E. Moghadam, Hofstra University, Nomadic Dynasties and the Development of Land Ownership: A Case Study of Iran (1000-1800)

Discussants
Jeffrey B. Nugent, University of Southern California

Hadi Esfahani, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign

Sohrab Behdad, Denison University

2:30 p.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Embassy

Roundtable on the Turkish Financial Crisis

Presiding
Mine Cinar, Loyola University of Chicago

Nurhayat Bezgin, Representative of the Central Bank of Turkey, New York

Serdar Sayan, Bilkent University

C. Emre Alper, Bogazici University

MEEA Board Meeting
January 4th, 2002
5:30-7:30 P.M.
Hilton: Jefferson Room
(Invitation Only)
**January 5, 2001**

**8:00 a.m.**

Atlanta Hilton: Embassy

**Palestinian Economy: Problems and Prospects**

**Presiding**

Edward Sayre, Agnes Scott College

Leila Farsakh, SOAS, University of London—Palestinian Labor Migration to Israel: Is It a Finished Story?

Edward Sayre, Agnes Scott College, The Effects of the Peace Process on the Palestinian Economy: Separation, Renewal and Disillusionment

Jennifer Olmsted, Occidental College, Income and Poverty in Palestine: A View of the Past Ten Years

**Discussants**

Insan Tunali, Koc University

Mona Said, International Monetary Fund

Hans Loefgren, International Food Policy Research Institute

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**10:15 a.m.**

Atlanta Hilton: Embassy

**Demography, Social Contract and Intergenerational Relations in the Middle East**

**Presiding**

Jennifer Olmsted, Occidental College


Serdar Sayan, Bilkent University, Political Economy of Pension Reform: The Lessons that MENA Countries Can Derive from the Pension Reform Experience of Turkey

Tariq M. Yousef, Georgetown University, Demography, Inequality and Intergenerational Generations in the Middle East and North Africa

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**January 6, 2001**

**8:00 a.m.**

Atlanta Hilton: Dekalb

**Political Economy and Policy Issues in the Middle East**

**Presiding**

Sohrab Behdad, Denison University

Farhad Noman, American University of Paris, The Interpretative Debate of the Classical Islamic Jurists on "Riba"

Haluk Kasnakoglu and Erol Cakmak, Middle East Technical University, Political Economy of Agricultural Policies in Turkey: Gainers and Losers

A.F. Al-Hajji, Ohio Northern University, Oil, Economic Freedom, and Human Rights: Is There a Link?

Insan Tunali, Koc University, How Household Consumption responds to Big Price Shocks: Evidence from Turkey, March - May 1994

**Discussants**

Timur Kuran, University of Southern California

Fatemah E. Moghadam, Hofstra University

Murat Somer, University of Washington

Parvin Alizadeh, Denison University

Tariq M. Yousef, Georgetown University

Ignacio Falgueras Sorauren, University of Malaga, University of Southern California

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**MEEA Business Meeting**

January 5th, 2002

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hilton: Embassy
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Continued from page 2

Sohrab Behdad, co-chair of CHARAF, the watchgroup for human rights violations of economists in MENA region asked the audience for cases to be reported to him. He briefly discussed the case of Saadeddin Ibrahim, the prominent Egyptian sociologist who was jailed last year.

Mine Cinar discussed the various measures that have been adopted for quality control purposes in MEEA. She mentioned that a necessary condition for getting published in Topics, the proceedings journal, is to get the papers to the discussants on time. She also mentioned the established rule of MEEA where ‘no-shows’ in sessions are automatically blacklisted for the next two years. The session chairs this year are keeping track of audience counts, number of papers handed out to the audience as well as the quality of papers. She mentioned that good discussants are essential to adding value to papers and as a result that MEEA cherishes good discussants. MEEA is also in the process of reviewing the Ibn Khaldun prize for young scholars (defined as dissertation students or scholars up to 3 years beyond the PhD degree) in order to find ways to expand the submission base.

Jeff Nugent reported that MEEA activities are growing and as a result that MEEA is increasing the size of the Board with a change in by-laws this year and told the members in the audience that they might be tapped to run for elections for the Board.

The business meeting was adjourned at 6:15p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mine Cinar

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

I am happy to inform you that the Board of Directors has just voted to reduce the annual membership fees beginning January 2002 to the following: Regular members $25, Student Members $20, All Members residing in a MENA country $10. Abstract submission fees remain at $25 for all persons wanting to participate in one of our MEEA sessions. The lower membership fee is made possible by the fact that beginning in the year 2002 membership and receipt of the Research in Middle East Economics (RMEE) will be decoupled. This de-coupling will last at least until these volumes can come out in a timely manner or alternative arrangements are made. While we were happy to distribute volume 4 of RMEE this summer to those who were dues-paying members in 1999, volume 5 (on agriculture) and volume 6 (on finance) are still in production. These volumes will be distributed to those who paid their dues in the years 2000 and 2001, respectively. Once again, we apologize for the unfortunate delays in delivering these volumes.

The reduced dues, however, will require MEEA to reduce its mailings and other services to those who have not kept up their memberships to date. Hence, to continue to receive our newsletter, call for papers and have access to some features on our website beyond the spring of 2002, you will have to renew your membership for the calendar year 2002. Anyone not able to do this but wanting to remain on our mailing list, please send the membership form back to me instead of to the Treasurer.

The members also voted to make two changes to the by-laws, one lengthening the terms of its officers from two to three years and increasing the size of the Board from seven to nine. In view of the fact that several of the officers are running for re-election, it was agreed by the Board that the change in terms would not become effective until the next election cycle (2003-2005).

For all those who will be able to join us at the MEEA meetings held in conjunction with the ASSA meetings in Atlanta, Georgia, Jan 4-6, 2001, please try to attend as many as possible of the MEEA sessions (on pages 3-4 in this newsletter) and attend our business meeting on Saturday evening January 5. Please feel free to bring students, colleagues and friends. We hope that we will be able to maintain the upward trend in attendance at MEEA sessions despite the concerns about air travel and world hostilities. Please check our website: http://www.meeaweb.org/ for the latest information about MEEA activities and announcements.

Jeffrey B. Nugent
Department of Economics
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0253

New Members 2001

A. Alattas
University of Leeds

A.F. Al-Hajji
Ohio Northern University

Rania A. Al-Mashat
International Monetary Fund

Don Babai
Harvard University

Ghazi Ben-Ahmed
Free University of Brussels

Nabil Blel
University of Tunisia

Grace V. Chomo
American University

Kassim M. Dakhallah
Claremont Graduate University

Dipak Dasgupta
World Bank

Bryan Daves
St. Antony’s College, Oxford

Abda El-Mahdi
Cairo University

Hasan Ersel
Yapi Kredi Bank

Goma Ahmed
Manhattan College

Farrokh Ghiuahi
Manhattan College

Nader Habibi
WEFA Group, Philadelphia

Behrouz Hadi-Zonoos
Allemeh Tabatabai University

haluk Kasnakoglu
Middle East Technical University

Zehra Kasnakoglu
Middle East Technical University

Mehrdad Madresehee
Lycoming College

Hassan Merza
Kuwait University

Abderrahman Robana
Alfred University

Farian Sabahi
Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva

Mona Said
International Monetary Fund

Sheikh Shanawaz
Univ. of Southern California

Murat Somer
University of Washington

Rana Sukhtian
Family Business, Jordan

U. Erickson Von Alman
International Monetary Fund

Jacklin Wahba
University of Southampton

J.W. Wright
US Agency for International Development

Jehad Yasin
Fort Valley College
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 three years after receiving Ph.D.) must be received no later than December 10, 2001 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.

**MEEA-CHRAF**

MEEA’s Committee on Human Rights and Academic Freedom (CHRAF) monitors infringements of human rights and academic freedom of economists in the Middle East. For information, please contact Co-Chairs of MEEA-CHRAF, Abbas Alnasrawi or Sohrab Behdad. Professor Alnasrawi may be reached at the Department of Economics, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05450-5, USA. phone 802.656.3064, fax 802.656.8405, email alnasra@moose.uvm.edu Professor Behdad is at the Department of Economics, Denison University, Granville, OH, 43023 USA. phone 740.587.6404, fax 740.587.6348, email behdad@denison.edu.

**WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION JULY 2002**

Jeff Nugent will be organizing sessions for the 2002 meeting of the Western Economic Association, International. The meetings will take place June 29-July 3 2002 in Seattle, WA. Any one interested in a Middle East or Development (broadly defined) related topic who is willing both to present a paper and serve as a discussant on another paper should contact Jeff with a title and complete address and email by January 15, 2002. Those not currently members of WEAI will need to pay the registration fees of the WEAI which are generally over $150 dollars.

**FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES SEPTEMBER 8-13 2002**

The First World Conference for Middle East Studies was initiated by the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA). It will be a joint congress of the European Association for Middle East Studies (EURAMES), the British Society for Middle East Studies (BRISMES) and the German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO). For information contact: Gunter Meyer, Centre for Research on the Arab World, Institute of Geography, University of Mainz, D-55099, Mainz (+49 6131 3922701; fax: +49 6131 3924736; davo@geo.uni-mainz.de; www.geo.uni-mainz.de/davo) Deadline for abstracts is February 15, 2002.

**GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN GENDER, WORK AND FAMILY**

The Economic Research Forum (ERF) and The University of Minnesota (UM) are delighted to announce a new six-month graduate fellowship at UM. The ERF-University of Minnesota Fellowship program is affiliated with the UM Population Center. Eligible candidates will work with faculty members from the University’s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the Department of Applied Economics and the Industrial Relations and Human Resource Center of the Carlson School of Management on research related to gender, work and family in the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey (ERF region). The fellowship is designed to support researchers committed to a multidisciplinary approach to gender, work and family issues whose research is centered on the analysis of household surveys. Enrollment date for the second round of the ERF-University of Minnesota Fellowship program will be August, 2002 - January 2003. The application deadline for the second round will be in March of 2003. Further information can be found at www.erf.org.eg and applications should be sent to: ERF-University of Minnesota Fellowship Secretariat, Azza El-Shinnawy, Program Officer, Economic Research Forum For Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey,7 Boulouss Hanna st. Dokki, Cairo, Egypt, Tel: (202) 748.5553-337 0810, Fax: (202) 761 6042, Email: ashinnawy@erf.org.eg.

**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMICS AND FINANCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA MAY 30-31, 2001 BYBLOS, LEBANON**

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 4th International Conference on the Economics and Finance of the Middle East and North Africa on May 30-31, 2002, in Byblos, Lebanon. Papers in all areas of economics and finance with applications to the Middle East and North Africa are solicited.

Papers presented to the conference can be submitted for consideration for publication in the inaugural issue of the *Review of Middle-East Economics and Finance*. Partial funding for travel and accommodation for the conference duration is available. For more information and submission of abstracts (~200-word) or full papers by email (as word or PDF attachment), please contact: Dr. Ghassan Dibeh, Conference Co-Chair, LAU, P.O. Box 36, Byblos, Lebanon. Email address: gdibeh@lau.edu.lb, Deadline for submission: March 15, 2002. Notification of acceptance: April 1, 2002. Website: www.lau.edu.lb
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.


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

**MEEA-SOAS**
**JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, LONDON**
**JULY 2001**

London was the venue and July was the month for MEEA's first European conference, which was hosted by the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of London University. This international conference was a special occasion to mark the twentieth anniversary of MEEA's foundation. Its aim was also to foster institutional collaboration and promote MEEA's profile outside the USA.

The theme of the conference was: ‘Global Change and Regional Integration: Redrawing the Economic Boundaries in the Middle East and North Africa’. The key concern of the conference was to examine the experience of globalization and prospects for regional integration in the MENA region. This gave a focal point for lively and interesting presentations and discussions, which extended over two days and encompassed some 50 papers organized into 13 panels.

The conference was inaugurated with a high profile plenary session launching a special issue of the *Economic Journal* (June 2001), which contained papers on ‘The Economic Aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict’. In another plenary session, Professor Tony Allan of SOAS was the keynote speaker to offer his vision on ‘solving MENA’s water scarcity problem in the context of the global trading system’.

In all, this first international venture for MEEA proved a major success. With as many as 140 participants we managed to bring together scholars of international reputation from the US, UK, and particularly from various countries in the MENA region (Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Israel, Tunisia, Lebanon, Iran, Syria, Palestine, etc) as well as economists from the World Bank and IMF to share in their latest research.

We are grateful to SOAS for hosting and supporting this major event and to the Ford Foundation for a grant that helped our MENA participants attend the conference.

If you have any ideas about the next venue and occasion for a joint venture with MEEA, please let us know!

**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:**

**Professional Address**

**Telephone:**

**Fax**

**Email**

Send to: Bulent Uyar
Treasurer, Middle East Economic Association
College of Business Administration
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0129

**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

**Board of Directors**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Mine Cinar</td>
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<td>Executive Secretary</td>
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**Past Presidents**

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<td>Columbia University 1984-1985</td>
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<td>Manoucher Parvin</td>
<td>University of Akron 1986-1989</td>
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<td>Abbas Alnasrawi</td>
<td>University of Vermont 1990-1994</td>
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<td>Sohrab Behdad</td>
<td>Denison University 1995-1996</td>
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<td>Fatemeh Moghadam</td>
<td>Hofstra University 1997-1999</td>
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**NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 12 No. 2, Fall 2001

Printed at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.
Logo Designed by Queen's University, Canada.

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

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