Dear MEEA Members,

We are pleased to invite you to submit abstracts for the Middle East Economic Association Annual Meetings, held on January 3-6, 2020 in San Diego, CA (San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina and San Diego State University). Note that the majority of accepted papers will be presented a day after the ASSA Annual Meeting (i.e., January 6, not during the ASSA Annual Meeting.)

The main topics will focus on several fields of economic research related to the ongoing transition process in the Middle East and North Africa, the influences on the MENA economies and their relations with the economies of the European Union. However, any research related with the MENA region, EU-MENA relations, or country specific cases are all welcome. Contributions by PhD students are encouraged to foster research among young professionals. Note that papers on other regions are not accepted to this conference.

In addition to research papers that have always been part of the MEEA Annual Meeting, MEEA organizes a special policy session on “Exchange Rate Arrangements, Price Stability and Economic Growth in MENA” to be chaired by Wassim Shahin during the ASSA meeting on January 3, and two policy sessions on January 6, 2020. The themes for these policy sessions are:

- Industrial Policy and the Importance of Industrialization in MENA
- Economics of Gender and Discrimination in MENA

This call for abstracts solicits policy papers on the above topics as well.

Your one-page abstract (750 words max) should be submitted before April 30th, 2019, using the MEEA-form and in English (including the title, authors’ names, affiliation, and contact information of the authors). Abstracts should include the papers objectives, data, methodology, results, and conclusions. JEL classification and up to 3 keywords should be included. Acceptance of abstracts for the conference will be by June 15th, 2019.

In order to submit abstracts, you need to go to be a MEEA member in 2017 and pay the submission fee. The membership fees are as follows:

- $30: for regular members currently residing in Region A.
- $20: for student members currently residing in Region A.
- $15: for regular members currently residing in Region B.
- $10: for student members currently residing in Region B.

Regions A and B are defined as:
• **Region A**: Countries that are classified as “high income” by the World Bank. The list can be found here: [http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/CLASS.xls](http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/CLASS.xls) It includes but not limited to North America, Europe, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, and Gulf countries such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

• **Region B**: All other countries (not included in Region A.) That means countries classified as “low income”, “lower middle income”, “middle income”, and “upper middle income” by the World Bank. See the same list: [http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/CLASS.xls](http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/CLASS.xls)

The submission fees are

- **$60**: for regular members currently residing in Region A.
- **$35**: for student members currently residing in Region A.
- **$35**: for regular members currently residing in Region B.
- **$20**: for student members currently residing in Region B.

Abstracts from submitters who have not paid these fees are automatically excluded.

In order to pay the membership and submission fees, follow the steps below:

1. Go to [https://meeaweb.org/renew](https://meeaweb.org/renew)
2. If you have already paid the membership fee for 2017, go to step 6. Otherwise, go to step 3.
3. Click on “2018 Membership”.
4. Choose the appropriate type of membership from the “Type” drop-down menu (Regular Region A, Student Region A, Regular Region B, Student Region B) and click on “Add to Cart” button.
5. Hit on the “back button” on your browser or go to [https://meeaweb.org/renew](https://meeaweb.org/renew)
6. Click on “39th Annual Meeting Submission Fee (Atlanta)”
7. Choose the appropriate type of fee from the “Category” drop-down menu (Regular Region A, Student Region A, Regular Region B, Student Region B) and click on “Add to Cart” button.
8. Now, click on the cart symbol on the top right side of the page. You will be directed to the checkout page. Review your purchases and click on “checkout” button when you are ready. On the next page, you will be asked to fill out a simple form and pay. You do not need a PayPal account to checkout; only a credit card.

After paying your membership and submission fees, you need to submit your abstract online on the Conference Maker, which is a website created by The Econometrics Society to make conference organization more efficient and accurate. In order to do so, follow these steps:

1. If you already have an account on the Conference Maker and know your username and password, **skip to step 4**. If you have forgotten your password, please see the appendix to this document on page 4 for the step-by-step procedure before moving to step 4. If you do not have an account or are not sure about it, go to step 2.
2. You need to go to [https://editorialexpress.com/cgi-bin/conference/register.cgi](https://editorialexpress.com/cgi-bin/conference/register.cgi) and enter your email address and hit the “submit” button. The system searches for your account. You may already have an account there. If you do, the system shows your account, you can click on your username and request for your password (Retrieving your password is a multi-step process. Please see the appendix of this document for step-by-step procedure.) If the system could not
find your account, it will tell you “If you don’t see yourself in the list above, click here to register for a new user ID.” By clicking on “here”, you will be directed to where you can register an account for yourself.

3. Follow the link and fill out the form to create your account.

4. After creating or finding your account, go to the conference webpage at http://editorialexpress.com/conference/MEEA40/ and login with your Conference Maker username and password.

5. You would be directed to your account where you can submit abstracts. There is a menu on the left side of the page that gives you many options. One option is “Submit a paper”. Click on that and you can see the following form:

![Paper Submission Form](image)

6. Fill out the form. The fields that are in blue are mandatory. One of the mandatory fields in the form that you need to carefully choose is the “Area” of your paper. You can submit a paper in any of the following areas:

- Policy Session ASSA: Exchange Rate Arrangements, Price Stability and Economic Growth in MENA
- Policy Session I: Industrial Policy and the Importance of Industrialization in MENA
- Policy Session II: Economics of Gender and Discrimination in MENA
- Business Cycles, Monetary and Fiscal Policy
- Conflict
- Demography
- Economics of the Firm
- Economics of the Household
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Environmental Economics
- Finance and Financial Market
• Economic Growth
• Institutions and Political Economy
• Labor Markets (demand, supply, unemployment, wages)
• Migration
• Poverty and Inequality
• Trade and International Economics
• Unassigned Submission

You can choose “Unassigned Submission” if none of the areas apply to your paper.

Your paper will be reviewed by experts in each area. So make sure that you choose the area of your paper correctly.

At this stage, you only need to submit your abstract but not the completed paper yet. The deadline for submission is April 30, 2019. This is a firm deadline and is NOT going to be extended.

You will be notified by June 15, 2018 about the decision on your submission.

If your plan to attend the conference changes at any time, please notify us immediately. In the past, one problem that created frustrations has been the large number of cancellations a few weeks before the conference. But cancelling your presentation is substantially better than not doing it. Notifying us as early as possible is a public good that benefits everyone. Please help all conference participants and organizers by informing us about your cancellation as early as possible. If you do not show up for your presentation without notifying us, your chance of participation in future MEEA conferences could be negatively affected.

We also strongly suggest that you reserve your hotel by early September, when ASSA announces registration and hotel reservation.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your abstracts.

Sincerely,
Rahel Schomaker

Executive Secretary of Middle East Economic Association
Professorship for Economics and Public Administration, CUAS Villach, and Senior Fellow, German Research Institute for Public Administration Speyer
Appendix – How to Retrieve Your Password on Conference Maker

1. First, go to https://editorialexpress.com/cgi-bin/conference/register.cgi and type in the email with which you signed up on Conference Maker or your Conference Maker username and hit submit.
2. A table will show up that has your username, first name, last name, organization, and email address.
3. Click on your username. On the next page, a table comes up with all your information. Click on “Email Password”.
4. On the next page, a message comes up that “The password for user ID...”
5. You need to go to your email address and find that email and read it carefully. It contains your password.